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Picturesque Views in Staffordshire. Engraved
by West; 38 plates, 4to, half morocco, 25/- 1834
Views in Shropshire, by Calvert. Descriptions
of 34 fine plates, 4to, half morocco, 25/- 1831

Views in Shropshire; plates, 4to, half 1830
Views in Staffordshire; plates, 4to, half 1830
Views of Castles and County Houses in 1835
4to, cloth, 42/-

Both these are here bound together, but
several plates ^{are} missing. JH

Mr. Radcliffe was ^a ~~late~~ rising ^{young} Birmingham
artist at the date of this publication, whose subsequent
career fulfilled the promise of his early youth. He
chiefly painted architectural subjects, and these are
now much sought after and highly prized by connoisseurs.
This was his first attempt at book illustration &
it does him great credit, the manipulation of details, the
varying lights, and breadth of treatment displaying a masterly
handing of the graver. ~~He~~ The brother of Mr. Radcliffe was
a clever line engraver, and a son of the latter, Mr. C. W.
Radcliffe is a clever engraver & artist, he having engraved the
plates for Dr. Arnold's "Memorials of Rugby" and Lord Morpeth's
edition of Gray's Poems.

2 plates missing

G. J. Lawley

Prestfield House
Wolverhampton

Mr. Edward Joseph Roberts.
Wheaton Aston
R. Penbridge

April 2nd 1873. -









ENGRAVED BY T. RADCLYFFE

DESIGNED BY J. A. COLE

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL,

PUBLISHED BY W. EMANS FROM SOROVE ST. BIRMINGHAM

PICTURESQUE VIEWS
AND DESCRIPTION OF
CITIES, TOWNS, CASTLES, MANSIONS,
AND OTHER
OBJECTS OF INTERESTING FEATURE,
IN
STAFFORDSHIRE,
FROM ORIGINAL DESIGNS, TAKEN EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK,
BY **FREDERICK CALVERT;**
ENGRAVED ON STEEL BY MR. T. RADCLYFFE:
WITH HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL ILLUSTRATIONS,
BY **WILLIAM WEST.**

BIRMINGHAM:
PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM EMANS, 170, BROMSGROVE STREET.

1834.

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1834
MAIN

INTRODUCTION.

The intention of the following pages has been to present short sketches of the principal Towns, and most of the Mansions and Seats of the Nobility and Gentry, with which this delightful and interesting County is so abundantly graced.

The Proprietor is aware that the Work might have been carried to a far greater extent, but he has been unwilling to increase the expenses of the Publication by elaborate details.

References have been made to the ancient as well as to the modern structures, which perhaps exceed in this those of most other Counties; Views of the most interesting will be found to be accurately delineated.

In the concluding pages is given a general outline of the County, as regards its ancient name, its Topographical situation, Climate, and Soil, as well as an account of its Agriculture, Commerce and Population, Civil and Ecclesiastical establishments, &c.

In reference to various places described, some Biographical sketches, and traits are inserted to eminent men, to whom the County has had the honour of giving birth.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the following pages is to present a general outline of the history of the United States, and to show the relation of the various parts of the country to each other, and to the world.

The purpose is to show that the West is not a new world, but a part of the old world, and that the history of the United States is a part of the history of the world.

Knowledge has been made to the subject as well as to the history of the United States, and the history of the world, and the history of the United States will be found to be accurately determined.

In the following pages a general outline of the history of the United States is given, and the history of the world is shown to be a part of the history of the United States, and the history of the United States is shown to be a part of the history of the world.

It is to be shown that the history of the United States is a part of the history of the world, and that the history of the world is a part of the history of the United States, and the history of the United States is a part of the history of the world.

PICTURESQUE VIEWS
OF
STAFFORDSHIRE.

LICHFIELD,

FORMERLY called Litchfield, and said to be of Saxon origin, is an ancient and interesting city, and approached with feelings of veneration and respect, by all admirers of architectural taste, and of the literary character: it is topographically described, as containing three parishes, in Offlers hundred, Staffordshire, on a small branch of the Trent 16 miles N. of Birmingham, and 119, N. W. from London by Coventry, 67 from Manchester, 30 from Newcastle, 16 from Wolverhampton, 16 from Stafford, 9 from Walsal, 7 from Rugeley, and 7 from Tamworth. It is a city and county of itself, lying in the lap of a delightful and fertile valley surrounded by gentle eminences, and nearly in the centre of England. It consists of four principal streets, and several of a minor character; but the majority of the houses are very handsome, and are occupied by persons of independent fortunes, whose good taste and love of quiet and retirement it would appear, has attached them and their families so long and so closely to this small city. The cathedral commands much interest, and the associations connected with it, considerable classical taste. This circumstance and the picturesque beauty of the surrounding country, thickly studded, as it is, with the mansions and demesnes (which we shall hereafter describe) of the nobility and gentry, naturally renders this city the desirable place of residence for the class of persons already noticed.

The city is divided by a small stream of water from the Close, which consists of the bishop's palace and houses principally belonging to the church.—The city contained in 1821—1028 houses and 4022 inhabitants, 2237 of whom were males and 2783 females—and although 509

families were said to be employed in various *trades* and *manufactures*, they are not of a description that can affect the health of the inhabitants, being principally, in addition to the usual handy craft trades, that of manufacturing carpets, horse rugs and sail cloth, coarse earthen-ware, tanning-leather, &c. Lichfield is said to have originated from the ruins of a Roman town, called Eloeum, about a mile distant (*Chesterfield Wall*), at the crossing of the Ikenild and Watling-street roads.

The cathedral it is said was first built at the early date of 300—rebuilt in 766 by Offa, king of Mercia, who, in the latter part of the 8th century erected this city into an archbishopric, but it was soon after under the archbishop of Canterbury reduced to a bishopric. This see was removed to Chester in 1075—and in 1102 to Coventry, but soon after was restored to Lichfield united with Coventry. The cathedral was again rebuilt in 1148, and considerably enlarged in 1296. There appears, however, a great contrariety of opinion respecting the origin of this city and its cathedral, which has occasioned learned controversies among antiquaries. Mr. Britton, that excellent antiquary and historian of Lichfield, and of all our principal cathedrals, observes that “the name of Lichfield is of Saxon origin, but its Etymology has long been a subject of dispute. In the Saxon chronicle the word is written *Licetfield*; in Bede, *Lycetfelth* and *Licitfield*; subsequent writers call it *Licethfield*, *Lichesfield*, and *Lychefield*. By some authors it is derived from “*leccian*,” to water; as being watered by the river; by others from “*læce*,” a physician; perhaps it may with more probability be supposed to have originated in the verb “*licean*” or “*lician*,” to like, or be agreeable; and therefore to signify pleasant field. But it has generally been considered as derived from *lic*, a dead body, and consequently as signifying “*cadaverum campus*,” the field of dead bodies. This derivation is however conceived to be supported by a tradition, which prevails very generally in Lichfield, that of the martyrdom of a great number of British Christians there, during the persecution under Dioclesian and Maximian: as this tradition has been noticed in every history of the cathedral, and by some is adduced as the reason for the establishment of the see on the spot consecrated by an event of such religious importance, it cannot with propriety be neglected in this place. The substance of it is, that a thousand Christians, the disciples of St. Amphibalus, suffered martyrdom in the time of that persecution, on the ground whereon Lichfield was afterwards built; “whence the city retains the name of *Lichfield* or *Cadaverum Campus*, the field of dead bodies, and bears for its device rather than arms, an escutcheon, of landscape with many martyrs in it, several ways massacred.” But as this device could not have been used in any authentic shape before the incorporation of the guild in 1387, it can add little weight to the tradition of a fact so very remote. Several writers of eminence are of opinion, that St. Amphibalus never existed; that his name originated in a mistake made by Jeffrey of Monmouth, that the whole legend relating to him was fabricated after the time of that historian, and that “the first authentic mention of Lichfield occurs in Bede’s Ecclesiastical History, where it is alluded to as the see of an Anglo-Saxon bishop, nearly four hundred years after the date ascribed to the martyrdom of the disciples of Amphibalus.” Dr. Stukely derives the Etymology of the name of this city from *LICH*, a Saxon word, signifying a morass, and which not only appears to correspond with the term “*Cadaverum Campus*,” but also agrees with the name and site of Lichfield. In consulting authorities, it appears, that during the war between Charles I. and his parliament, this city was several times taken and retaken;

and during these unhappy disputes the cathedral was garrisoned by royal troops, and sundered materially.

Lord Brook and Sir John Gell, in March, 1643, the former was shot through the eye, by a gentleman of the Dyott family, and the spot where he fell is now distinguished by a pavement of white pebbles, and a marble tablet bearing an inscription commemorating the event. During these unhappy disputes the cathedral suffered very considerable damage, not only from the fire of the batteries and musketry, but also from the rapacity of the republican soldiers. Immediately after the restoration, Dr. Hackett was appointed to this see; and he the very morning after his arrival, set about cleaning and repairing his episcopal church; and by his own large contributions, and the subscriptions he obtained from the neighbouring gentry, was soon enabled to restore this noble pile to its former splendour; he also repaired the palace."

The bust in the east aisle of the cathedral of Dr. Samuel Johnson, simply inscribed thus: "as a tribute of respect to the memory of a man of extensive learning, a distinguished moral writer, and a sincere Christian," is strictly appropriate, and as Mr. Britton truly remarks, "had all the admirers of Johnson been content with that moderate and justly merited praise, his weaknesses would never have been brought into that public notoriety, which makes the present generation hesitate to rank him with the truly great. In early life Johnson attempted to establish a school at Lichfield, for preparing gentlemen for the universities. Of his three pupils David Garrick was one, and, after a short probation the master and scholar migrated together to the metropolis in search of more congenial pursuits. This journey ultimately led the way to fame and fortune to the latter, and literary fame to the former: their friendship was only terminated by death. Mrs. Garrick erected a cenotaph, after a design by James Wyatt, to her husband, near that of Dr. Johnson with a bust by Westmacott.

There is also a handsome monument executed by Mr. Bacon Jun. in 1813, by request of Miss Anna Seward (who died at the age of 66 in 1809) to the respective memories of her father, mother and sister: a female figure (with a harp hanging on a willow) representing filial piety, weeping over a tomb is well executed; the conclusion of the inscription written by Sir Walter Scott is as follows,

"Honour'd, belov'd, and mourn'd, here Seward lies;
Her worth, her warmth of heart, our sorrows say,
Go seek her genius in her living lay."

The church is walled in like a castle, and stands so high as to be seen at the distance of many miles. Its length is 411 feet, and breadth 153; from the centre rises a spire 256 feet high, and two towers which rising from the west front terminates also into, and forming pyramidal spires: the beauty of its proportion is hardly to be paralleled in England. The chancel is paved with alabaster, and Connel coal, in imitation of black and white marble. One of the windows is fitted up with very handsome stained glass, purchased by the dean and chapter from a ruined abbey in France, and the north door is extremely rich in sculpture. In 1789 this church underwent a thorough repair; behind the altar piece is an elegant stone screen, which divides it from St. Mary's chapel. In the inside of the dome are some neat marble monuments, particularly two near the south entrance, to the memory of Dr. Johnson, (that Hercules in lite-

ture), and David Garrick, both natives of this place: another in the north aisle to lady Mary Wortly Montague, another to Anna Seward; but the most beautiful monument here is that of the two granddaughters of dean Woodhouse, by Chantry, which are models of taste and genius. There belong to this cathedral, a bishop, dean, precentor, chancellor, treasurer, four archdeacons, (of Coventry, Stafford, Shropshire, and Derby,) and twenty-seven prebendaries, beside five priest vicars, seven lay clerks or singing men, choristers and inferior officers. There are three other churches in Lichfield, one of which St. Michael's, has a church yard containing six or seven acres. On the site of its ancient castle (where Richard II. was confined on his way to London) now stands a handsome building, erected by Andrew Newton Esq., and well endowed for clergymen's widows and unmarried daughters. At the S. E. end of the city is a college priory, or hospital of St. John the Baptist, for a master and poor brethren. Here is also a new theatre. The guildhall has a very neat and elegant appearance, the top being ornamented with the city arms carved in stone, and under it is the goal. The market house is neat. Lichfield, as we have before remarked, is a county of itself, and contains a jurisdiction extending about twelve miles in compass; it has the power of holding assizes, and determining cases of life and death.

It is governed by two bailiffs (chosen yearly out of twenty-four burgesses), a recorder, a sheriff, a steward, and other officers. Lichfield is famous for its ale,—the sale of which is considerable and lucrative: it has sent two members to parliament since 33rd Edward I. the right of election being in the bailiffs, magistrates, freeholders of forty shillings a year, the holders of burgage tenures, and in such freemen as are enrolled and pay scot and lot. The number of votes is about 620. This city gives title of earl to the family of Lee; it has a good free-school, founded by Edward VI., at which Dr. Johnson, Addison, Ashmole, Woolaston and Garrick received the rudiments of grammatical instruction. It has also an English school. The markets are on Tuesday and Friday—fairs the three first Thursdays after twelfth-day, Ash Wednesday, May 1st and the Friday before St Simon and St. Jude. Lichfield by the means of the Wyerly and Essington canal, communicates with the Mersey, Dee, Ribble, Ouse, Darwent, Trent, Severn, Humber, Thames and Avon. The churches of St. Michael and St. Chadstow, are only chapels to St. Mary's and in the patronage of the vicar thereof. St. Mary's in Foro is a vicarage, value ten pounds, in the patronage of the chapter of Lichfield.

In taking our leave of Lichfield associated and connected as it is with English literature, it is worthy of remark that it has not only been the natal spot of the eminent characters to which we have alluded, but also the chosen residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edgeworth, Dr. Darwin, and other eminent literary characters.





DRAWN BY F. CALVERT

ENGRAVED BY T. RADCLIFFE

TRENTHAM HALL.

THE SEAT OF THE MARQUIS OF STAFFORD.

PUBLISHED BY W. EMANS PROMSGROVE ST. BIRMINGHAM

TRENTHAM HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE MANSION OF

GEORGE GRANVILLE LEVESON GOWER, MARQUIS OF STAFFORD, K. G.

THIS noble modern structure is said to resemble in its plan, the late edifice of Buckingham-house, in St. James's park, the interior of which was, doubtless, unexceptionable at the time, and furnished an excellent model. The exterior of Buckingham-house was not, however, generally admired—Trentham hall, in this respect appeared vastly its superior, not only from the advantages of its site, but from being divested of that dull uniformity, and barrack-like appearance which characterised Buckingham house.

This fine seat, situate four miles south from Newcastle-under-line, and five north-west from the town of Stone, has been erected (although termed modern) about a century—the grounds and beautiful picturesque scenery which surround it, were laid out by Brown, who, at that time, was considered a complete master of the art.

The grounds originally possessed peculiar advantages and have been, with the mansion, at subsequent periods much improved.

The late marquis made considerable and general alterations and improvements to this edifice, from chaste and elegant designs by the talented HOLLAND, giving a new and imposing feature to the whole.

This extensive demesne furnished with fine timber, abounds in charming prospects, exquisitely diversified with spacious sheets of water—and the river Trent, which here pursues its beautiful course, supplies these apparent lakes; the banks of which are not only overshadowed with trees, but their umbrageous branches hang considerably over the water, and produce a picturesque effect.

The fine lawn, the various clumps of shrubs—the distant hill—with

Tree above tree,
A woody theatre,

produces a grand effect.

The numerous and spacious apartments of this mansion are graced with an extensive and fine collection of paintings by ancient and modern masters—and when it is recollected that the principal gallery and collection belonging to the marquis—is at Cleveland house in London. some idea may be formed of the noble proprietor's patronage to the fine arts.

In addition to the alterations made in this mansion, as before alluded to, the present marquis has, on the western side, added an extensive drawing room, and, on the eastern, some excellent private apartments.

As our work is of a pictorial character, we have exhibited a compressed list of many of the pictures which ornament the walls of the numerous apartments of this mansion, without professing any particular arrangement or order.

It will be observed that many repetitions of the portraits of the same noble personages occur, and also similar paintings on other subjects, by different masters.

In taking our leave of this subject and of TRENTHAM-HALL we may apply the lines of Mr. Britton, prefixed to his "*Catalogue Raisonné*," of the paintings belonging to the noble Marquis, in the gallery at CLEVELAND-HOUSE.

"Hail Painting hail! whose imitative art,
Transmits through speaking eyes the glowing heart."

St. Peter,	Shee.	The Circumcision,	Guido.
Young Fifer,	Collins.	Aurora.	Howard.
Old man's head,	Sir William Beechey.	Descent from the Cross.	
Hare-skin man,	T. Barker.	Satyr and Nymph,	N. Poussin.
Portrait of Henry Charles, Earl of		Chevy Chase,	Bird.
Surrey,	Phillips.	St. Catherine,	Domenichino.
Portraits of Charlotte, Countess of Surrey,		Cottage girl,	Shee.
Lady Elizabeth, and Lord Francis		View near Scarborough,	Hoffland.
Leveson Gower,	Phillips.	Female Artist,	Watson.
'The Virgin, Christ, and St. John,		Flowers	Hewlett.
	Ferrara.	Sea piece,	Morland.
Portrait of Elizabeth, Marchioness of Staf-		A Sorceress,	Teniers.
ford,	Mrs. Mee.	Portrait of Edward Wortley Montague, Esq.	
Virgin and Child,	Charles Wilkins, after		Peters.
	Vandyck.	Two Children,	T. Barker.
Portrait of Mademoiselle de Charolois, sister		View at Lewisham,	Nasmyth.
of the present minister, Monsieur le		Fruitseller	Lecount.
Duc,	Nattier.	Vulture and Serpent,	Northcote.
Christ and Mary Magdalen	Westall.	Landscape,	B. Barker.
Ruins at Rome	Paolo Panini.	Cobblers,	D. Guest.
Moses in the Bullrushes,	Jackson.	St. Stephen,	Annibal Carracci.
Ruins at Rome	Paolo Panini.	Portrait of George Grenville, Earl Gower,	
Bellisarius,	Opiè.		Phillips.
Artist reading,	Bone.	Girl's Head,	Mrs. Hakewill.
Hannah and Samuel	Reinagle.	Portrait of John Grenville, Earl of Bath,	
a copy of Rembrandt, at Cleveland-House.			Wissing.
A Calm,	B. Hoppner.	Portrait of His Majesty, George IV. when	
Home,	G. Jones.	Prince Regent,	

Portrait of Thomas, Earl of Arundel, <i>Miss M. Mure.</i> <i>a copy from the Picture by Vandyck, at Cleveland-House, from the Orlean's Collection.</i>	Village Politicians, <i>Bird.</i>
Landscape, <i>Miss Palmer.</i>	Portrait of George Granville, Marquis of Stafford, <i>Romney.</i>
Portrait of Lady Jane Leveson Gower, Portrait of Jane, Countess of Bath, <i>William Wissing.</i>	A frame of Miniatures, containing portraits of the Earl of Bredalbane, Countess of Moray, &c.
Pyramus and Thisbe, <i>Wright of Derby.</i>	Cast of William Pitt, <i>Miss Andras.</i>
Cast of Lord Chancellor Thurlow, <i>Miss Andras.</i>	A Picture in Florentine inlaid marbles,
A Mosaic of Florentine marbles.	A Portrait of King Henry VIII, <i>Holbein.</i>
Portrait of Caroline, Countess of Carlisle, <i>Romney.</i>	A Frame of Miniatures, consisting of portraits of Gertrude, Duchess of Bedford; Letitia Countess Gower; King Charles II.; Mr. William Leveson Gower; Miss Fazakerley, first wife of Granville, Marquis of Stafford, and Mrs. William Leveson Gower,
Moonlight, <i>Hoffland.</i>	Head of Titian <i>Tintoret.</i>
Portrait of Cromwell, Earl of Essex, <i>Holbein.</i>	Portrait of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, <i>Zuccherro.</i>
Ditto the Elector Palestine.	Education of Cupid, <i>Titian.</i>
Ditto Lord Chancellor Ellesmere.	Portraits, <i>Paul Veronese.</i>
Ditto Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, <i>Girolama da Trevisa.</i>	St. Margaret, <i>School of Carracci.</i>
A Consistory, <i>Tintoret.</i>	Portrait of Don Garcia, <i>Sarmiento d'Acuna.</i>
Portrait of Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford.	Rape of Proserpine, <i>Nicolo de l'Abate.</i>
Portrait of Christiern, Duke of Brunswick.	Portrait of Ratcliffe, Earl of Sussex.
Ditto Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, the parliament general.	Head of Aretino, <i>Tintoret.</i>
Portrait of Elizabeth, the marchioness of Stafford, <i>Sir Thomas Lawrence.</i>	Old Somerset House.
Landscape, <i>Gaspar Poussin.</i>	Six Subjects after the antique, <i>Pechux.</i>
Virgin, Christ, and St. John, <i>Pietro Perruginio.</i>	Queen Charlotte, after <i>Sir Joshua Reynolds.</i>
Portrait of George Granville, Marquis of Stafford, <i>Phillips.</i>	Granville, Marquis of Stafford, <i>Romney.</i>
Landscape, <i>Gaspar Poussin.</i>	Portrait of Caroline, Countess of Carlisle, <i>Angelica Kauffman.</i>
Landscape, <i>Claude Lorraine.</i>	Portrait of Lady Anne Vernon; Lady Georgiana Eliot; the Duchess of Beaufort; the Countess of Harrowby; and Viscount Granville, <i>Romney.</i>
Holy family, <i>Rottenhamer and D. Sagers.</i>	Lady Louisa Macdonald, <i>Angelica Kauffman.</i>
Marriage of St. Catherine, <i>Venetian School.</i>	Remorse, <i>F. Rehburg.</i>
Christ crowned with thorns, <i>L. Carracci.</i>	George Granville, Marquis of Stafford, <i>Owen.</i>
Two. — Murillo, and a Spanish painter, unknown, in one frame.	The Standard, <i>Cowper.</i>
Portrait of Charles James Fox, <i>Jackson.</i>	Landscape, <i>De Marne.</i>
Frederick, Earl of Carlisle, <i>Jackson.</i>	

View on the Firth of Forth, <i>Elizabeth Marchioness of Stafford.</i>	A Subject after Titian, <i>William Cantrill.</i>
The Entombment of Christ, <i>Hilton.</i>	Dunrobin Castle, <i>W. Williams.</i>
Scale of Mountains, <i>Riddell.</i>	Children, <i>Rising.</i>
Landscape, <i>Gainsborough.</i>	Head, <i>Miss Geddes.</i>
Portrait of Lord Chancellor Thurlow, <i>Romney.</i>	The Holiday Feast, <i>Miss M. Spilsbury.</i>
Portrait of King George III. after <i>Sir Joshua Reynolds.</i>	Heraclitus, <i>Spagnoletto.</i>
Vice Admiral Sir Richard Leveson, <i>H. C. Vroom.</i>	Peasant Boy, <i>Millichap.</i>
A Sketch, <i>Velasquez.</i>	Saint and Angel.
Virgin and Child.	Sheep-folding, <i>Starke.</i>
A Burgomaster, <i>Meerveldt.</i>	A School, <i>Barney.</i>
Portrait of a Venetian Senator, <i>Titian.</i>	Dance, after <i>Titian.</i>
Landscape, <i>G. Poussin.</i>	Portrait of Sir Archibald M'Donald, <i>Craig.</i>
Portrait of Cardinal Barberini.	Landscape, <i>Barrett.</i>
Landscape, <i>Coninck.</i>	Landscape, <i>Vincent.</i>
Christ and the Disciples at Emmaus, <i>Spagnoletto.</i>	Landscape, <i>Barrett.</i>
A copy of the portrait of Mrs. Siddons by Sir Joshua Reynolds, on Worcester China.	Landscape, <i>Cranmer.</i>
Landscape, <i>Wynants.</i>	A Portrait
View of Nimeguen, <i>Von Goyer.</i>	Portrait of Devereux, Earl of Essex.
Portrait of Elizabeth, Marchioness of Stafford, <i>Hoppner.</i>	Landscape, <i>Sir George Beaumont.</i>
Horse and Serpent, <i>Ward.</i>	A Gate, Edinburgh, <i>Runciman.</i>
Venus and Cupids, <i>Coypel.</i>	Portrait of John Leveson, <i>Marc Garrard.</i>
Landscape, <i>Clennel.</i>	Portraits of King Charles II., King James II., and Princess Henrietta, Maria, <i>Old Stone, after Vandyck.</i>
Angelica, <i>Imperiala.</i>	Portrait of Gertrude, Duchess of Bedford, <i>Knapton.</i>
View of Scheveling, <i>Von Goyer.</i>	Evelyn, Duke of Kingston.
A Painting in imitation of Salvator Rosa, <i>Lingleback.</i>	Evelyn, Lady Gower.
Caerphilly Castle, <i>Ibbotson.</i>	Portrait of Queen Anne.
Portrait of Lady Elizabeth Belgrave, <i>Gummow.</i>	A Portrait.
Imitation of Salvator Rosa, <i>Lingleback.</i>	Portrait of Lady Margaret Beckford Serena, <i>Romney.</i>
Game, <i>Reinagle.</i>	Portrait of Catherine Duchess of Rutland.
Sea Piece, <i>Brooking.</i>	Portraits of Mr. William Leveson Gower and sister, Mrs. Proby.
Portrait of Sir Beville Granville, <i>Walker.</i>	A Young Man, <i>Geunaro.</i>
Portrait of Frances, Countess of Mar, <i>C. K. Sharp.</i>	View of Rhodes, <i>Meyer.</i>
	Interior of a Kitchen, <i>Pugin.</i>
	Boys and Game, <i>Heaphy.</i>
	Landscape, <i>Ducroz.</i>
	Small Landscape, <i>Craig.</i>

Weatherby Bridge,	<i>Girton.</i>	Mary Queen of Scots.	
Cauldron Linn,	<i>Glover.</i>	A Portrait,	<i>Sir Peter Lely.</i>
Terni,	<i>Ducroz.</i>	Queen Mary,	<i>Marc Gerrard.</i>
Tivoli,	<i>Ducroz.</i>	The Duc d'Alercon,	<i>Porbus.</i>
Landscape	<i>Dewint.</i>	A Portrait,	<i>Cornelius Jansen.</i>
Catharine Lady Wyndham.		Two Apostles,	<i>Paul Veronese.</i>
John, Lord Gower,	<i>Dahl.</i>	View in Watford,	<i>John Varley.</i>
Jane, Countess of Rochester and Clarendon,	<i>Dahl.</i>	Village Politicians,	<i>Ostade.</i>
		Cows and Asses Heads,	<i>Huett Villiers.</i>
Mr. Bernard Granville.		Louisa, Countess Gower.	
Mr. William Leveson Gower.		The Earl of Moray,	<i>Cornelius Jansen.</i>
John, Earl Gower,	<i>Knapton.</i>	Elizabeth, Countess Waldegrave,	<i>Gawin Hamilton.</i>
John, Duke of Rutland,	<i>Dahl.</i>	Jane, Countess of Rochester and Clarendon.	
Catharine, Lady Gower,	<i>Dahl.</i>	Guido's Mother,	<i>Guido.</i>
Portrait of Judge Dyer.		A Portrait.	
Portrait of Lady Katharine Leveson,	<i>Cornelius Jansen.</i>	Portrait of Lionello Spada.	
Queen Mary,	<i>Sir Peter Lely.</i>	Anne, Countess of Jersey.	
Sir John Leveson,	<i>Marc Gerrard.</i>	View of Canterbury,	<i>La Porte.</i>
Lady Leigh of Stoneleigh,	<i>Cornelius Jansen.</i>	Moonlight,	<i>G. Arnold.</i>
Old Man's Head,	<i>A Disciple of Rembrandt.</i>	View of Peterborough,	<i>La Porte.</i>
Queen Henrietta Maria,	<i>Stone after Vandyke.</i>	Ditto do.	<i>G. Wilson.</i>
Catherine, daughter of Mr. W. Leveson Gower.		Three Views of Trentham.	
Cupid,	<i>Goupie.</i>	Portrait of Sir Edward Wyndham.	
A Boy Piping,	<i>Gertrude Duchess of Bedford.</i>	John, Lord Gower.	
Portrait of Elizabeth, Countess of Waldegrave,	<i>Lady Diana Beauclerk.</i>	Portrait of Queen Mary.	
Charlotte, Countess of Surrey, Lady Elizabeth		Katherine, Lady Wyndham.	
and Lord Francis Leveson Gower,	<i>Edridge.</i>	The Countess of Gainsborough.	
Portrait of Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury,		Portrait of Dr. Johnson,	<i>Sir Joshua Reynolds.</i>
after <i>Cornelius Jansen.</i>		The Earl of Sandwich,	<i>Knapton.</i>
Portraits of Granville, Marquess of Stafford,		Holy Family,	<i>Venetian School.</i>
George Granville, Marquess of Stafford,		View from the Trinita del Monte,	<i>Freerson.</i>
Susan, Marchioness of Stafford,		Portrait of Mr. Porter,	<i>Hogarth.</i>
Lady Louisa M'Donald,		Portrait of Elizabeth, Marchioness of Stafford.	<i>Phillips.</i>
Caroline, Countess of Carlisle,		Head of St. Francis.	
Lady Ann Vernon,		Portrait of Viscount Granville,	<i>Downman.</i>
Lady Georgina Eliot, and Charlotte		A Landscape and Figures, Elizabeth, Mar-	
Sophia, Duchess of Beaufort,		chioness of Stafford, the figures by	
<i>Angelica Kauffman.</i>		Athens,	<i>H. Bunbury.</i>
			<i>Casas</i>

Ephesus,	<i>Casas.</i>	Carnival at Venice,	<i>Tiepolo.</i>
View of Trentham,	<i>Wootton.</i>	The Holy Family,	<i>Venetian School.</i>
Sheep-folding,	<i>Starke.</i>	John, Earl Gower.	
Ithuriel,	<i>Alstone.</i>	Portrait of Mrs. William Leveson Gower.	
Holy Family,	<i>Rubens.</i>	Portrait of the Earl of Gainsborough.	
Landscape,	<i>Bochart.</i>	Mr. William Leveson Gower.	
Hunting in Leicestershire, with Portraits of		Portrait of Katharine, Duchess of Rutland.	
the Earl of Cardigan, and John, Earl		Mary, Duchess of Rutland.	
Gower,	<i>Wootton.</i>	John, Duke of Kingston.	
View of Heidelberg.		Portrait of Evelyn, Lady Gower	
Carnival at Venice	<i>Tiepolo.</i>		

N. B. There are several others by Watteau, Patel, Vandermulin, Wyoutz, Loudonio, and others, besides some portraits not described.

TITLES.

George Granville Leveson Gower, MARQUESS OF STAFFORD, Earl Gower, Viscount Trentham, of Trentham, in the County of Stafford; Baron Gower of Sittenham, in the County of York; and a Baronet; born January 9th, 1758; married September 4th, 1785, Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland, and Baroness of Strathnaver, in her own right.

MOTTO.—“*Frangas not Fleetes.*”

TOWN RESIDENCE—Cleveland Row.

SEATS—Trentham, Staffordshire; Dunrobin Castle, Sutherland; West-hill, Surrey.

STAFFORD.

STAFFORD, the county town of Staffordshire, is situate in Pircill hundred, on the north bank of the Scro, at the distance of three miles from its junction with the Trent. It is about 12 miles north-west from Lichfield, 16 from Newcastle, 9 from Rugely, 7 from Stone, and 135 from London: it is a borough containing two parishes united. In 1821 it contained 991 and 5736 inhabitants, 2915 were males, and 2821 females; 712 families were employed in trade. The town is of considerable extent, containing several good streets and lanes, some of which are well paved. The houses in general are well built and covered with slate. The public buildings are well worthy of notice: the church (formerly collegiate) is of a cruciform character, and has an octagonal tower; its interior consists of a nave, two side aisles, a transept, and a chancel of three aisles; it also contains some very curious carvings and mouldings (both on its exterior and in its interior) a very antique fount, and several ancient and modern monuments.

The other church, St. Chad's, is an old and decayed building, its architectural feature is of



DESIGNED BY F. CALVERT.

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ENGRAVED BY T. RAY.



the most ancient Saxon plan, assigning one half of the whole dimensions to the nave, one quarter to the tower, and the remainder to the chancel.

The County Hall, in which the assizes are held twice a year, is nearly in the centre of the town; it is a neat, spacious, and modern structure, containing numerous apartments well arranged and laid out, for the purposes for which they were intended. There is also a quarter sessions, and the county court, which is held monthly: at the rear of the county hall, is a convenient market place. The town has also a good hospital, a free grammar-school, two schools upon the national system, and several almshouses. It appears that, formerly, "in the suburbs, and upon the green, there were several free chapels, and hospitals." It was an exempt jurisdiction under a dean and thirteen prebendaries; but the deanery house is converted into a school.

Near the town is a new infirmary; almost facing it is the county gaol: a lunatic asylum has recently been erected. The principal trade carried on here is in the manufacture of boots, shoes, and cutlery—and in the tanning of leather. The inns are on a good scale, and well conducted. The market is on Saturday. Fairs, February 14th, May 10th, June 27th, September 16th, and October 2nd.

The earliest mention of Stafford which can be relied on, is in 913, when it appears, according to the Saxon chronicles, that Ethelfleda, Countess of Mercia, built a castle here, but no traces of it remain; another is said to have been built by William the Conqueror, which was shortly after demolished; a third was erected—and continued to flourish until destroyed in the conflicts between the house of Stuart, and the parliament.

A portion of the castle, termed the keep, still remains upon the summit of a hill, remarkable for its extreme regularity of form, and smoothness of ascent on every side. The keep consists of three apartments with fire-places, and a communication, by steps, to several loop holes.

Formerly the town was surrounded by a wall, and had four gates. It is said to have derived its name from the river, being, in early times, forded with a staff; hence *Stafford*, which appears feasible—it being placed in a low situation.—Still, the air here is very salubrious, the town a very pleasant one, and the scenery that surrounds it very beautiful.

Stafford at a very early period was a place of considerable importance, for, in Domesday-book it is designated a city, containing eighteen burgesses, belonging to the king; and it had twenty mansions of the Earl of Mercia.

The charter of King John furnishes a record of its early privileges and immunities as a corporation. It is however, by a charter of Edward VI., governed by a mayor, recorder, ten aldermen, twenty common councilmen—a town clerk, and two serjeants at mace: it returns two members to parliament, and the number of its voters are about six hundred.

The noble seats and mansions, within a few miles of Stafford, are not only numerous, but of peculiar interest, and of the first order; they will be duly appreciated, noticed, and depicted in this work

SHUGBOROUGH PARK, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SEAT OF

THOMAS WILLIAM ANSON, — VISCOUNT ANSON.

THE manor of Shugborough was purchased in the reign of James I. by William Anson, Esq., and its noble mansion is, at the present period, the principal residence of that highly distinguished family.

George, Lord Anson, the celebrated admiral and circumnavigator was born here, and, after spending a long and useful life in the service of his country, retired to his seat at Moor Park, Herts; where he expired suddenly in 1762.—At his demise his immense property devolved to his eldest brother, Thomas Anson, Esq. of Shugborough; he, immediately upon this vast accession of fortune, not only beautified and enlarged the family mansion, but spiritedly and tastefully entered into the grand project of improving the grounds, and embellishing the scenery of the surrounding country, of which more hereafter, for in reference to Lord Anson, while on this subject, it may not be uninteresting to lay before our readers, the following biographical sketch of his lordship, as drawn by Mr. Stephen Jones.

“George, Lord Anson, was the son of William Anson, Esq. of Shugborough, a very ancient and worthy family in Staffordshire, and was born in 1700. On the breaking out of the Spanish war, he was appointed to command a fleet of five ships destined to annoy the enemy in that dangerous and unfrequented sea which lies beyond America, and in that unexpected quarter to attack them with vigour. His departure being delayed some months beyond the proper season, he sailed about the middle of September, 1740; and, about the vernal equinox, in the most tempestuous weather, arrived in the latitude of cape Horn: he doubled that dangerous cape in 1741, after a bad passage of forty days, in which he lost two ships, and by the scurvy, four or five men in a day. He arrived off Juan Fernandez, in June, with only two ships, besides two attendants on the squadron, and three hundred and fifty men; he left it in September, took some prizes, burnt Païta, and staid about the coast of America, till May, 1742. He then crossed the southern ocean, proceeding with the Centurion only, the other ships having been destroyed in August. Having refreshed his crew at Tinian, he sailed, in October, for China; stayed there till the beginning of 1743; waited for the galleon at the Philippine islands, met her on the twentieth of June, and took her. Having sold the prize in China, he set sail for England in December, 1743, and, on the fifteenth of June, 1744, arrived at Spithead, having sailed, in a fog, through the midst of a French fleet, then cruising in the channel.—In 1747, being then on board the Prince George of ninety guns, in company with Admiral Warren, and twelve ships more, he intercepted, off cape Finisterre, a powerful fleet bound from France, to the east and west Indies, and, by his valour and conduct, again enriched himself and his officers, and



DRAWN BY F. CALVERT.

ENGRAVED BY J. RAU-LEY.

SHUGBOROUGH,
SEAT OF THE RT HON^{BLE} LORD ANSON
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strengthened the British navy, by taking six Men-of-War and four East Indiamen, not one of them escaping. The French admiral, M. Jonquiere, on presenting his sword to the conqueror, said, "Monsieur, vous avez vaincu l'Invincible et la Gloire vous suit," pointing to the two ships so named. King George II. for his signal services, rewarded him with a peerage, by the title of lord Anson, baron of Soberton in Hants; he died suddenly at his seat at Moor Park, in Hertfordshire, June 6th 1762. His natural disposition was calm, cool, and steady: but it is reported, that our honest, undesigning seaman was frequently a dupe at play; and it was wittily observed of him, that he had been round the world,* but never in it.

George, Lord Anson in his voyage round the world in the Centurion, in the years 1740, 1, 2, 3, 4, not only created an extraordinary interest at the time, but his heroism was an event that will ever form a strong feature in the annals of our country. We therefore venture on the following digression: Mr. Nicholls, in the annals of Mr. Bowyer's press, in alluding to that interesting "voyage, compiled from Lord Anson's own papers and materials by Richard Walter, M. A." makes the following remarks.—"This volume though commonly ascribed to Mr. Walter, whose name appeared in the title page, and who had taken in subscriptions, was the production of Benjamin Robins Esq. The public had, for some time, been in expectation of seeing an account of the voyage, composed under his lordship's own inspection, for which purpose Mr. Walter was employed as having been chaplain to the Centurion during the greatest part of the expedition. Walter had accordingly almost finished his task, having brought it down to his own departure from Macoa for England; when he proposed to print his work by subscription. It was thought proper, however, that an able judge should first revise and correct it, and Robins was appointed, when, upon examination, it was resolved that the whole should be written entirely by Robins; and what Walter had done, being taken almost *verbatim* from the journals, should serve as materials only. Hence the introduction entire, and many dissertations in the body of the book, were composed by Robins, without receiving the least hint from Walter's manuscript; and what he had thence transcribed, regarded chiefly the wind and the weather, the currents, courses, bearings, distances, offings, soundings, moorings, the qualities of the ground they anchored on, and such particulars as generally fill up a sailor's account. No production of this kind ever met with a more favourable reception, four large impressions being sold off within a twelve-month; it has been translated into most of the European languages, and it still supports its reputation, having been repeatedly reprinted in various sizes. The French affect to call this *chef d'œuvre* in its way a romance; and we must certainly give the writer credit for some of the things to the honour of his hero, which he would have us believe; as he would almost persuade us, that the abilities of the commander were such, that we might fancy he planned the taking of the Acapulco ship before he left England: however, the account, from its grand divisions &c., is a masterpiece of composition, and certainly has not been equalled (except by Dr. Robertson's histories), in these enchanting particulars."

The editor conceived that he knew the *last* survivor, who accompanied lord Anson in the Centurion, in the person of Mr. Keating, many years an apothecary upon Ludgate Hill, London, and brother to the eccentric bookseller and banker of that name, at Stratford upon Avon, but it appears in giving an account of the Fortescue family in a late history of Warwickshire, that "John Fortesque Esq. captain in the royal navy, (the oldest officer on the superannuated list) who died in the 87th year of his age in 1808, was supposed to be the last survivor who accompanied lord Anson in his celebrated voyage.

Lord Anson in addition to the eminent services which he rendered to the country, had the honour of closing them, by safely conveying the late queen Charlotte to England, after a very perilous, rough and tedious passage, in September 1761, not one year before his death, he having died in June, 1762.

In returning to the subject of this noble and splendid mansion; it received the addition of a handsome portico a few years since, this admirable addition consists of eight fluted columns of the Ionic order; and without destroying the chasteness of this fine structure, two noble apartments are added; the first a drawing room of 46 feet in length by 28 in width, the second a saloon of 54 feet in length and 22 in width. Each side is supported by six fine columns of Scagliola: in fact, no expence has been spared to render this mansion one of the first order. Thomas Anson Esq. with a view to make it as chaste and classical as possible in its appearance invited James Stuart the architect, generally known by the appellation of Athenian Stuart, and author of the history of Athens, to Shugborough, where he erected a monument to the memory of Lord Anson. It is designated the "Triumphal Arch," and is executed after the model of Adrian's arch at Athens. This fine monument displays various emblems of naval victories, and the arch is surmounted by a colonnade, the centre of which is graced by a military trophy, and the sides, which are of white marble with busts of Lord and Lady Anson.

The grounds are ornamented with several buildings of considerable taste, and a variety of statues; among the latter is a beautiful and much admired group by Sheemaker, of two lovers gazing on a shepherd who is pointing to a tomb with the inscription "ET IN ARCADIA EGO," conveying an idea to the youthful lovers, that no earthly state, however delightful the prospect may be, can avert the shafts of death.

We may exclaim with the late Dr. De la Cour, who in his prospect of poetry, says:

In sculpture—here proportion learns to please,
When ev'ry beauty swells by nice degrees;
Where in the chisel's seen the poet's pen,
That files and polishes the works of men,
Softens the rugged surface of the song,
Yet turns the features regular and strong;
Commands the limbs in attitude to rise,
And live and walk in the beholder's eyes.

It has been truly remarked that the neighbouring scenery over the enchanting vale of Shugborough varied by all the beauties that nature and art united are capable of forming, and watered as it is by the rivers Trent and Sow, conspire to render this spot a complete terrestrial paradise; for here are seen the various specimens of Athenian, Grecian, Chinese, and Gothic architecture, dispersed with great judgment and exhibit such distinct specimens of taste, as to remind us of the lines of the poet we have just quoted, although so little known, but to whom THOMPSON, the author of the "Seasons" bestowed in his finest strain, the most unqualified praises. Dr. *De la Cour*, in his prospect of poetry, in alluding to the subject of architecture, thus proceeds.

Now let the muse to architecture change,
Plunge in the bath, or through the palace range,

Heave the huge mole, or bid the column rise,
 Or point the obelisk to pierce the skies:
 Palladio here must think in every line,
 And deep Vitruvius scan the whole design;
 The works of Solomon, and him of Tyre,*
 Direct the plan, and all your taste inspire:
 In due proportion ev'ry pillar rear,
 Nor let the orders be confounded there;
 Where the Corinthian stands in fluted rows,
 Let not the martial Doric interpose!
 Nor where the Tuscan lifts the imperial urn,†
 Suffer the next Ionic shaft to turn;‡
 But chief that chaos call'd Composite shun,
 Which begs from all and yet belongs to none."

We must now give the reader some idea of the extent to which the late Lord Anson carried the improvements of this charming place; he not only entirely removed the old village of Shugborough, but also cut a new channel for the river Sow, (upon the banks of which the old mansion formerly stood), took down the old stone bridge of three arches, and erected another half a mile higher up the stream; and erected the beautiful lodges which are so much admired on approaching the principal entrances to this magnificent structure.

The interior is ornamented with a choice collection of antique statues and an admirable Bacchus, of modern execution by Nollekins. The paintings are some of the finest description by the old masters, among which are productions by Claude, Dominechino, Guido, the two Pousins, Teniers, Vaudevelde, and others of the Flemish and Italian schools. There are also several productions by the dowager Viscountess Anson, and in the dining room is a portrait of Lord, George Anson, upon which we cannot look without feeling

"That hints of glory fire the warlike soul,
 And bid like motions in our bosoms roll."

The present proprietor of this superb mansion, "Thomas William, Viscount Anson, of Shugborough and Orgrave, in the county of Stafford; Baron Soberton, of Soberton, Hants; was born the 20th of October, 1795, and succeeded to the family honours on the demise of his father, July 31st, 1818; married 11th of February, 1819, Louisa Catherine, youngest daughter of Nathaniel Phillips Esq. of Sleebech Hall, Pembrokeshire, and has issue one son, Thomas George, born 8th August, 1825, and two daughters Louisa, and Ann." In giving the lineage of this family, Mr. Burke states that "the family of the Ansons have been seated in the county of Stafford for several generations, first at Dunston, but since the time of James I. at Shugborough; which manor was purchased in that reign, by William Anson Esq., the maternal ancestor of the

* Hiram.

† Trajan's pillar at Rome was the first of this order.

‡ The famous Temple of Diana, at Ephesus, which took two hundred years in building, was of this order. Vide Palladio.

present Viscount." The family was first ennobled in the person of the celebrated naval commander and circum-navigator, whom we have before noticed.

Their arms bear the motto,—"*Nil desperandum.*"

WOLVERHAMPTON.

WOLVERHAMPTON, the most considerable market town in the county of Stafford, is situate upon a rising ground, and is extremely healthy, notwithstanding its extensive manufactories, and its contiguity to the coal-pits. It is a parish, principally in the north division of Seisdon hundred; it also forms part of the north and south divisions of the hundred of Offlow, and another part of it extends into east Cuttleston hundred. It is fourteen miles north west from Birmingham, sixteen from Stafford and Lichfield, five from Wednesbury, sixty-eight from Manchester, and one hundred and twenty-three north-west from London. In 1821, it contained three thousand three hundred and thirty-eight houses, and eighteen thousand three hundred and eighty inhabitants, of whom four thousand and forty-seven families, were employed in trade, and manufactures,—chiefly in that of hardware, for which it has long been celebrated, particularly for locks and keys, and indeed for every description of iron and brass goods, used by builders, and cabinet makers, and for almost every article in which the anvil, the forge, and the foundry can be employed to advantage. Nor is it less celebrated in the manufacture of sheet-tin—japanned and papier macheé articles; which find a ready sale all over Europe. It has been remarked that "most of the farmers in the neighbourhood, have their forges, where they work, when not employed in the field, and take their work to market as regularly as other farmers do their corn, where it is readily bought up; many of the women are assistants in these manufactures, and work at the file." It possesses peculiar local advantages, from having some of the best iron mines in England, with abundance of coal and lime close to it; as well as from its canal communications.—It has a canal branching from the Dudley and Birmingham canal; communicating also with the Stafford, Worcester, and Grand-trunk, and another branch to the Wyerly and Essington canal, at Walsal.

The market here is held on Wednesday and Saturday,—and the fair, July 10th. The extent of the parish is considered of as great extent as any in south Britain, being nearly thirty miles in circumference, containing nearly twenty very considerable villages and townships, and upwards of thirty thousand inhabitants.

Of the ancient history of the town, and the derivation of its name, it was, according to Camden and other historians, written Hampton, until a monastery was erected here, the site of which

DRAWN BY CALVERT

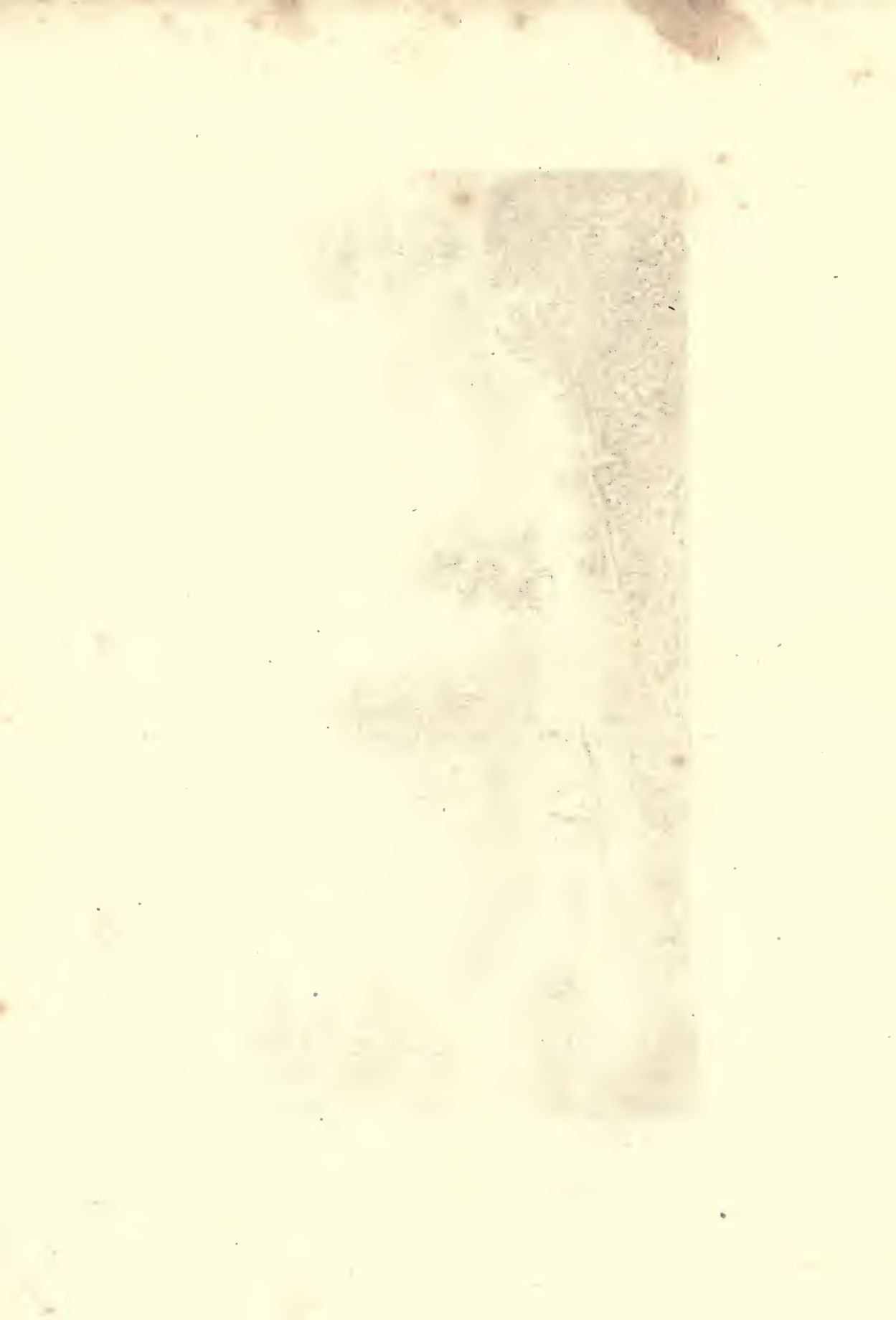


KNORRVED BY J. RADCLIFFE

WOLVERHAMPTON.
FROM THE PENN ROAD.

FROM THE PENN ROAD

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is unknown, unless situated near the collegiate church. It is related that the Lady Wulfruna, the survivor of her husband, Anthelm, duke of Northumberland, in the time of King Ethelred, founded a monastery to the honour of the Virgin, at which period the town was called Wulfrunshampton; subsequent transitions, however, have designated it Wolverhampton.

The first part of the name was a corruption of the name of the lady, the latter signifying *free*.

“ A thriving town, for arts Vulcanian fam'd,
And from its foundress, good Wulfruna nam'd.

According to Cooke, “the above mentioned lady founded the monastery in 996, which, at the conquest, was in possession of secular canons. William Rufus gave this church to Sampson, bishop of Worcester, who settled it on the prior and convent of his own cathedral, and they held it till the time of King Stephen, when it was taken from them by Roger, bishop of Salisbury; shortly after, it was given to the king by the bishop of Chester, and the church of Lichfield; and it was again in the hands of secular canons till the famous Petrus Blesensio, who was dean, resigned it into the hands of Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, that he might build an abbey for monks of the Cistercian order; which, however, seems never to have been done, for the secular canons were in possession not long after, and continued so. This church was accounted one of the king's free chapels, and, with the collation of prebendaries, was annexed to the deanery of Windsor. In the reign of Edward VI. the college and prebends were granted to the Duke of Northumberland; but these coming again to the crown, by the dukes attainder, the deanery and prebends were refounded by Mary, and farther confirmed by James I., who made the celebrated Marcus Antonius de Dominis, archbishop of Spalatro, and dean of Windsor, prebendary and dean of Wolverhampton; and presented seven other clergymen, among whom were Josephall Hall, Gabriel Goodman, and Dr. Thomas Good, to the other seven prebends, Hatherton, Wilnall, Fetherston, Halton, Monmore, Stonewall or Kinewaston, and Wobestan.

Respecting the churches, it has been observed, that in a place of such extent, it was rather remarkable that there were only two Protestant churches; there is however, a new one erecting upon a very handsome scale, and there are three chapels for divine worship according to the established religion of the country, exclusive of the dissenting chapels of others now building.

St. Peter's, a collegiate church, with a lofty tower, embellished with battlements, was founded about the close of the tenth century. This ancient edifice possesses a great degree of chasteness, and elegance of design and construction; it contains eight bells, with chimes, an organ, and a brass statue of Sir Richard Leveson, who engaged the Spaniards, under Sir Francis Drake. There is also a curious font and a stone pulpit in this church, that are worthy of examination; but the most remarkable object connected with this edifice, is an ancient stone cross or pillar lately repaired: it stands in the church-yard, and exhibits a vast profusion of rude sculpture, respecting the origin of which, little is known.

An act of parliament being obtained for the erection of a new church, or chapel of ease here, in 1755, it was finished in 1758; but, it appears that, from the want of funds, the steeple was not erected till 1776: this church is dedicated to St. John; it has an excellent organ, and a

handsome altar-piece. There are two chapels belonging to the Methodists, one to the Roman Catholics, and one to the Quakers. Here is also an ancient free grammar school, endowed by Sir Stephen Jennings, a native of this town, and lord mayor of London: there are two other charity schools, one for fifty boys, the other for forty girls, and almshouses for six poor women. There is also a public dispensary here, supported by voluntary contributions, and an excellent establishment called the union mill (similar to that of Birmingham, &c.) for the grinding of corn, and supplying the public with flour and bread on eligible terms; the building cost £14,000. which was raised by subscribers to certain shares. The town is lighted with gas; it has three banking houses; and, although some of the streets are rather narrow, the town is rapidly improving.

In the vicinity of the town there are a number of trees, planted at regular distances, and serve to mark the limits between the township and the parish. In the environs are also a number of beautiful gardens, sloping up to the town, and commanding fine prospects, which exhibit the most pleasing scenes of agricultural prosperity.

The race ground, at a short distance from the town, is not only an excellent one, but, for flatness of surface, and fineness of the sod, it perhaps stands unrivalled. The stand house is admirably constructed, and of the first order, and has all the appearance of the conservatories of our nobility, upon a grand scale; the refreshment and assembly rooms, and the orchestra, are all in similar good taste—and the views, the scenery, and finely wooded country, thickly studded with noblemen's and gentlemen's seats, can be seen from it, are perhaps unrivalled in the county.

ABBOTS-BROMLEY.

There are some curious circumstances attached to Abbots-Bromley, which derived its name from an abbey that formerly existed in the neighbourhood, and was subsequently called Paget's-Bromley, from the family of that name. The church is spacious, and has a tower, from which rises a lofty steeple. Mogg observes that "the custom called the hobby-horse dance, formerly prevailed here; it was generally celebrated at Christmas, on new year's day, and twelfth day, when a person carrying between his legs, the resemblance of a horse, made of thin boards, danced through the principal street, having a bow and arrow in his hands, the latter of which passed through a hole in the bow, and stopping it on a shoulder, made a snapping noise, when drawn to and fro, by which means he kept time with the music; five or six other persons also dancing, accompanied this individual, each carrying six rein deers' heads on his shoulder, painted with the arms of the different families who had been proprietors of the manor; all those friendly to this sport and coming to see it, subscribed a trifle, by which means refreshments were purchased, the poor supported, and the church kept in repair," which charges are not, most likely, now so cheerfully borne.

BLYTHEFIELD PARK, STAFFORDSHIRE;

THE SEAT OF

WILLIAM BAGOT, LORD BAGOT.

THE ancient mansion attached to this park, has been the seat of the Bagot family for upwards of four hundred years, having come into their possession in the reign of Edward III. in 1367, through the marriage of Sir Ralph Bagot, with the heiress of Blythefield. This ancient edifice contains a most superb collection of paintings, many of which are by the most eminent artists, and in the collection are several portraits of the Bagot family, who were steady adherents to the cause of the unfortunate Charles I. The park presents some beautiful and interesting scenery, and is situate at some distance from the house: the majestic oaks which adorn this delightful spot, are perhaps unrivalled in England, in their—girth—height, and straitness of body. The mansion has of late years undergone many improvements, without injuring (as is usually the case) the ancient and original simplicity of this structure. There is an excellent sculpture of King John, signing Magna Charta, placed in the hall, which with the library and extensive drawing room, form the best apartments, and have been added recently. In addition to the pictures, most of which we have endeavoured to give an alphabetical list, the collection of Coins deposited here at the bequest of Thomas Anson Esq., are said to be not only curious and instructive, but the most valuable in England.

CATALOGUE OF PICTURES.

A Boy's Head,	<i>F. Bartolemeo.</i>	Poor Family,	<i>Le Nain.</i>
Storm,	<i>G. Poussin.</i>	View of St. Peter's at Rome,	<i>G. Orchiata.</i>
Singer,	<i>Murillo.</i>	Landscape with Goats, &c.	<i>Paul Brill.</i>
Portrait,	<i>Vandyke.</i>	Battle piece,	<i>Burganone.</i>
Magdalen,	<i>Guido.</i>	Piper,	<i>F. Hals.</i>
Concert,	<i>Palamedes.</i>	A Flemish Officer and Woman on Horseback,	
Supper with Singers,	<i>Ditto.</i>		<i>Bleekers.</i>
Head of St. John,	<i>Guercino.</i>	Landscape after Booth,	<i>D. Heush.</i>
Head of Moliere,	<i>Spanish School.</i>	Friar in the character of Diogenes,	<i>Lanfranc.</i>
Head, an Oval,	<i>Tintoret.</i>	Man driving Cattle,	<i>Castiglione.</i>
Pass of the Alps,	<i>Calomba.</i>	Old Man reading,	
Landscape,	<i>Paul Brill.</i>	<i>Viscountess Dowager, Lady Anson.</i>	
Sketch,	<i>C. Cignari.</i>	Landscape,	<i>Van Goyer.</i>

Fish Market, ...	<i>Bat. Bassan.</i>	The Lord Treasurer Burleigh	
Portrait, date 1622, painter unknown.		Mrs. Salusbury, of Bachymbed, Den-	
An Improvisario with a Guitar, supposed to		bighshire.	
represent Ariosto, ...	<i>Lanfranc.</i>	Sir Edward Bagot.	
Altar piece with Virgin and Child,		Elizabeth Bagot, afterwards Countess	
	<i>Bence Garofala.</i>	of Uxbridge.	
Birds, ...	<i>Hondekæter.</i>	Charles Salusbury.	
Burning the Vatican, ...	<i>Raphael.</i>	Mary, Countess of Aylesford, <i>Hudson.</i>	
Boors at Cards, ...	<i>Teniers.</i>	Mary Bagot, Countess of Dorset, a	
Boors drawing Wine from a Vat, ...	<i>Ditto.</i>	beauty of the Court of Charles II.	
Boors Drinking, ...	<i>Ditto.</i>	William Legge, first Earl of Dart-	
Cupids at Play, ...	<i>Rothenamer.</i>	mouth and his Lady.	
Christ bearing the Cross, ...	<i>Van Eyck.</i>	Henry, Earl of Bolingbroke, when	
Jacob's Journey, ...	<i>Castiglione.</i>	young, in his Robes.	
Fruit and dead Game, ...	<i>Fyt.</i>	Hugo Grotius, <i>School of Rembrandt.</i>	
Head, a Study, ...	<i>C. Maratti.</i>	Rachael at the Well, ...	<i>C. Loti.</i>
Landscape, Cattle and Figures, ...	<i>Patel.</i>	Ruins of Roman Buildings, ...	<i>P. Panini.</i>
Landscape, ...	<i>G. Poussin.</i>	St. John Baptizing Christ, ...	<i>Zuccarelli.</i>
Landscape with a Mill Pool, ...	<i>Van Goyer.</i>	Stoning of St. Stephen, ...	<i>Felippo Laura.</i>
Lot and his Daughters, ...	<i>Guercino.</i>	St. Paul shaking off the Viper, ...	<i>Guercino.</i>
Landscape and Figures, ...	<i>Holbein.</i>	The Rape of Europa, ...	<i>Albano.</i>
Landscape, ...	<i>Van Goyer.</i>	The Flight into Egypt, ...	<i>Zuccarelli.</i>
Nativity of St. John, ...	<i>P. Veronese.</i>	The Annunciation, ...	<i>Rothenamer.</i>
Players at Minciati, ...	<i>Albert Durer.</i>	Three Mary's with the Body of Christ,	
Petrarch's triumph of time, in which is a Portrait		a copy from <i>A. Caracci.</i>	
of Petrarch and some of his Friends,		The Duke of Buckingham, ...	<i>Giorgione.</i>
	<i>Old Franks.</i>	The Angel appearing to the Shepherds,	
Portrait of a Young Lady, ...	<i>Rosabella.</i>		<i>Andrew Sacchi.</i>
Walter Chetwynd of Ingestrie,		The Trinity, ...	<i>Albert Durer.</i>
	<i>Sir Peter Lely.</i>	The Continnence of Scipio, ...	<i>Seb. Concha.</i>
Earl of Essex, in rich armour, and in-		The Judgment of Solomon, ...	<i>S. Vouet.</i>
scribed, " <i>Virtutis comes Invidia.</i> "		The Feast of Levi, ...	<i>P. Veronese.</i>
Sir Walter Aston of Tixall.		Two Neopolitan Officers, ...	<i>Valentino.</i>
Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.		The Virgin Mary, ...	<i>C. Maratti.</i>
Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, with the		The Nativity, ...	<i>Van Eyck.</i>
date æt. 52.		The Scourging of Christ, ...	<i>Ditto.</i>
Lewis Bagot.		Women preparing pot herbs, ...	<i>Ostade.</i>

There are a few others which have escaped notice, but this choice collection contains about one hundred fine pictures.



ENGRAVED BY T. RADCLIFFE.

WOLSELEY HALL,

SEAT OF SIR CHARLES WOLSELEY BART.

PUBLISHED BY W. EMANS, BROMSGROVE ST. BIRMINGHAM.

It appears that William Bagot, F. A. S. and F. L. S., of Bagot's Bromley, in the county of Stafford, was born the eleventh of September, 1773, and succeeded to the title of baronet, on the demise of his father, the twenty-second of October, 1798; married, the twenty-eighth of May, 1799, Emily, daughter of Charles, first Lord Southampton, by whom he had one daughter, who died in infancy. Her ladyship also dying, in the year 1800, Lord Bagot married again in 1807, Louisa, eldest daughter of George, third earl of Dartmouth, by whom he had issue, three sons and three daughters: his lordship is the second baron, and seventh baronet. Of their lineage, Mr. Burke in his peerage says, "the ancestors of this noble family, are recorded in Domesday book, as possessors of Bagot's Bromley, which they held of Robert de Stradford, ancestor to the ancient Barons Stafford, whose male line terminating about the time of Richard I., in Robert de Stafford—his lordship's sister and heir, Millicent, conveyed that barony by marriage to Harvey de Bagot, a younger branch of the family, who, thereupon assuming the surname as well as title of Stafford, became progenitor to the succeeding Barons and Earls of Stafford, and Dukes of Buckingham.

The pedigree of the family, in the possession of the present peer, attested by Sir William Dugdale, and Gregory King, deduces the lineal descent from Bagot, Lord of Bromley, who held the lands from Robert de Stradford, as mentioned in Domesday book, for the particulars of which *vide* Burke's Peerage.

MOTTO. *Antiquam obtinans.*

WOLSELEY HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE MANSION OF

SIR CHARLES WOLSELEY, BART.

THIS neat and unassuming old mansion, having but four windows in its most elevated front, and four on each side, or wings of the house, is delightfully situated in a charming and almost unrivalled valley. The manor is a member of Haywood, two miles from Rugeley, and seven from Stafford. This mansion is crowned with an embattled parapet to the extreme length of the building, and the whole has recently been very much improved, and considerable additions have been made by the present proprietor,—and the beautifully varied and handsomely laid out pleasure grounds and gardens evince his great taste. Nature too has been very bountiful in her

gifts to this enchanting valley, furnished with surrounding scenery, greatly enriched and adorned by the meandering course of the Trent, which proudly sweeps through Wolseley bridge, and under the hanging woods in the park

The interior of this curious old hall is highly interesting, as it presents, perhaps, some of the finest specimens of carving upon oak, in the highest state of preservation. The grand staircase and drawing room are richly ornamented in this way, and the whole is the workmanship of an artist of the first eminence in the time of Charles II., about the period that the first Sir Charles Wolseley, represented the county of Stafford in Parliament, and took an active part in public affairs.

The family of the Wolseleys have retained the same name and resided upon this estate for upwards of seven hundred years, and we find that Richard de Wolseley, (descended from Eddric, who resided at Wolseley in the time of William Rufus) about the twenty-fifth of Edward I., married Sybilla, daughter of Roger de Aston, with her he had possessions in the adjoining lordship of Bishton, which to this day remain in the family of the Wolseleys. "Sir Charles Wolseley, bart., of Wolseley, in the county of Stafford, was born in 1769, married first, in 1792, Mary, daughter of the honorable Thomas Clifford, of Tixall, in the county of Stafford, by whom he has a surviving son, Spencer William, and who was born in October 1793. Sir Charles's second marriage took place in 1812, to Anne, youngest daughter of Anthony Wright, Esq. of the county of Essex, by whom he has three sons, Charles, Henry, and Edward."

Mr. Burke also remarks that this family ranks amongst the most ancient of Staffordshire, one of its ancestors being Lord of Wolseley, in the thirteenth century, and another, one of the barons of the exchequer, in the reign of King Edward IV.

ARMITAGE PARK, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SEAT OF

THOMAS LISTER, ESQ., LL. D.

THE fine romantic park of Armitage, the mansion attached to it, and the beautiful and extensive view of the adjacent country, renders this residence a truly delightful one.

It is in the true English style, a fine substantial building, forms a complete square, the whole summit of which is embattled, and the four turrets, there being one at each corner, are crowned by cupolas.

This edifice is of a stone colour; three Gothic arches support a noble portico, under which, at the principal front, is the entrance to the mansion. It has many spacious rooms, and contains an extensive and fine collection of books and paintings.—The library is nearly sixty feet in length; and, among the paintings, by ancient and modern masters, there are several family and other portraits; in the former are those of Sir William Lister and his lady, and of Sir Martin Lister and his lady. There is also a portrait of Caius Gabriel Cibber, the sculptor, (father of Colley Cibber) who executed the two figures, one of raving, the other of melancholy madness, that surmounted the pillars of the principal entrance to old Bethelhem. He also executed the fine bust of Oliver Cromwell, which was sold in the sale of the collection of the celebrated Dr. Mead. There is also in the mansion of Armitage, a fine portrait of Dr. Butt, Physician to Henry VIII.; one of Francis, first earl of Westmoreland; one of the Countess of Chesterfield, daughter of Butler, Duke of Ormond, and several others of persons of celebrity.

Thomas Lister, Esq. the proprietor of this place, is of the ancient family of that name, of Gisburne park, Yorkshire. His father, Nathaniel Lister, Esq. who represented the borough of Clithero in parliament, was uncle to Lord Ribblesdale, (the title originated from the river Ribble) the head of the family. Mr. Burke in his peerage says that “this noble family is of great antiquity, having been seated at Gisburne, for more than five centuries, which estate originally came to the Listers by the marriage of

“JOHN LISTER, son of Sir Thomas Lister, with Isabella, daughter and heiress of John de Bolton, from which marriage the fifteenth lineal descent was

THOMAS LISTER, Esq. of Gisburne park, born October the eighth, 1688; member of parliament from 1710 until his demise, in 1745. Mr. Lister married Catherine, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Ralph Asheton, of Whalley, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

THOMAS LISTER, Esq., born the nineteenth of January, 1723, married Beatrix, daughter of Jessop Hulton, Esq. of Hulton park, in the county of Lancaster; and, dying on the twenty-eighth of November, 1761, was succeeded by his eldest son,

THOMAS LISTER, Esq. D. C. L., born the twenty-second of March, 1752, who was elevated to the peerage on the twenty-sixth of October, 1797, by the title of Baron Ribblesdale, of *Gisburne park, in the county of York*. His lordship married in 1789, Rebecca, daughter of Joseph Fielding. Esq. by whom he had issue,

THOMAS, present peer,

CATHERINE, who was married in 1810, to James Skurray, Day, Esq., and, secondly, in 1817, to the Rev. John Fleming Parker; and

Rebecca, Adelaide.

He died on the twenty-second of September, 1826.

CREATION,—Twenty-sixth of October, 1797. MOTTO.—*Retinens vestigia famæ*.

SEAT.—Gisburn park, Yorkshire.

According to Sir William Dugdale, this family (by the marriage of John Lister, son of Sir Thomas, with the heiress of the house of Bolton) derive a descent from the Saxon earls, through the families of Clare, Gaunt, and Romara.

In Lichfield cathedral is an elegant monument to the memory of Harriet, daughter of John Seale Esq., of Mount Boone, Devon; she was the first wife of Thomas Lister Esq. the present proprietor of Armitage Park—the second is “Mary, eldest daughter of the late William Grose Esq. LL.D. of Warwickshire, by Lucy, daughter of Edward Sneyd, Esq. of Staffordshire.”

The Grand Trunk canal passes through an interesting subterraneous cavern, near the pleasure grounds of this park, from which may be seen a most extensive view over the surrounding country, and the church erected upon an elevated rock, between which and the river Trent, a very picturesque effect is produced. Armitage, (in the hundred of Offlow, south) is said to have derived its name from a hermit that sojourned on this spot.

HAGLEY HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE MANSION OF

THE HONOURABLE ROBERT CURZON, M. P.

HAGLEY HALL, from having been built at an early period, and having been enlarged from time to time, causes it to have not only an irregular appearance, but also that of a series of different dwellings, however it is extremely picturesque, and perhaps no part of it could be dismantled without spoiling the ancient and venerable effect of the whole, and the arrangement and comfort of the interior, amply compensate for any want of peculiar grandeur in its exterior. The late Viscount Curzon, it appears, made very considerable improvements to this mansion which is about a mile and a half from Rugeley, north east of Cannock Chase, on the borders of Cuttlestove hundred

Hagley after passing through various branches of the Weston family, of Weston Lizard in this county, and whose paternal estate it was in the time of Edward III., became the property of the late Viscount Curzon. It appears that Sir Richard Weston, Knt. was a baron of the exchequer, and died in 1658; his son was slain in the army, (in which he was a colonel) of Charles I., that monarch created Richard Weston, who was a member of the same family, Earl of Portland.

Of the ancient and noble family of Curzon, it appears that Nathaniel Curzon, of Scarsdale in the county of Derby, was created a Baronet by the title of Baron Scarsdale, on the 27th of September 1751, and married on the 18th of August, 1777, to the Honorable Sophia Sampson Noel, third daughter of Edward, first Viscount Wentworth, and coheirress of her brother Thomas, second Viscount Wentworth; at whose death in 1815 that peerage expired.

Lord Scarsdale inherited the honour of his family, as second Baron, at the demise of his father, on the 5th of December 1804. To give the lineage entire, of this ancient and noble family and of their connections and properties, would exceed the limits of this work. GIRALINE DE CURZON, who is the first we find upon record, came over with William the Conqueror. From the second son of GERALINE de Curzon, Richard Curzon of Kedleston in the county of Derby, was lineally descended John Curzon of Kedleston, (commonly called John with the white head), who was high sheriff for the counties of Nottingham and Derby in the fifteenth year of the reign of Henry VI.; he married Joan, daughter of Sir John Bagot, of Blythefield in this county; his son Richard Curzon succeeded him and married Alice, daughter of Sir Robert Willoughby, of Wollaton, Notts, and was succeeded by his eldest son, John Curzon Esq. high sheriff for the county of Derby, in the thirteenth of Edward IV., second of Richard III., and second of Henry VII.; his grandson John Curzon of Kedleston, married the daughter of Sir Ralph Sacheverel, Knt. of Staunton in the county of Derby, he was succeeded by his son, who it appears was created a baronet on the eleventh of August, 1641, and represented the county of Derby in Parliament; his son Sir Nathaniel, who died on the fourth of March 1719, was succeeded by Sir George, and he dying unmarried, the title devolved upon Sir Nathaniel, they were all members of parliament for Derby, and the latter Sir Nathaniel, married Mary, the daughter and co-heiress of Sir Ralph Asheton, Bart. of Middleton. in the county of Lancaster, by whom he had issue, Nathaniel, who succeeded him, and was created Baron Curzon in 1794, and Viscount Curzon in 1802. These honours now merge in the earldom of Howe, borne by his lordship's great grandson. Sir Nathaniel, who died in 1758 was succeeded by his eldest son of the same name, and, who was elevated to the peerage on the ninth of June, 1761, by the title of Baron Scarsdale, of Scarsdale in the county of Derby, he married October 27th 1751, Caroline, daughter of Charles, second earl of Portmore, by whom he had issue Nathaniel. The late Viscount Curzon, the younger son of Sir Nathaniel, who married the daughter of Sir Ralph Asheton, became the proprietor of Hagley, from whom it descended to the present owner. His lordship married Esther, daughter of William Hanmer of Betterfield, Shropshire; the Honorable Penn Asheton Curzon, was the issue of this marriage, and he was united to Sophia, eldest daughter of Richard, earl Howe, K. G.; and the barony being limited to his eldest daughter, and her male issue, she, upon the death of Earl Howe, became a Baroness in her own right. The late Viscount Curzon, dying at the advanced age of 92, in March 1820, his grandson, Richard William, married in the same year, Lady Harriet Georgina, daughter of the Earl of Cardigan, and in the year following his lordship, from his majesty's consideration of his descent from the brave admiral, was advanced to the earldom.

WOOTTON HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE;

THE MANSION OF

COLONEL WILSON.

THIS mansion is perhaps one of the most handsome and perfect specimens of the very best structures erected in the time of queen Elizabeth. It is a grand edifice, constructed with all the elaborate details of the architecture of that day, and is built entirely of stone, and is ascended by a noble flight of stone steps.

This seat, situate in the hundred of South Totmonslow, on the skirts of the county, is about four miles and a half from Ashbourn, in Derbyshire, and is rendered remarkable for having sheltered the celebrated Jean Jaques Rousseau, between the years 1760 and 1770; It was then in possession of the Davenport family, and it was here that Rousseau commenced his attack upon his friend and benefactor David Hume, from which and other circumstances, a discreet mind, has pleaded as the only apology in his favour. Of this extraordinary man, celebrated philosopher, and eccentric genius, Mr. Stephen Jones says, that in his "confessions," all the disguises which pride, hypocrisy, self-love, and shame, had wound round the human heart, are removed; all its secret recesses are laid open to the eye; and he appears a strange mixture of good and evil, of sublimity and littleness, of penetration and simplicity! Mr. Nichols, in his anecdotes states, that "the Rev. Dr. Ralph Heathcote published a letter in 1767 to Horace Walpole, relative to the quarrel between Rousseau and Hume, which letter some of the reviewers of that day attributed to Mr. Walpole himself." Richardson has often been compared to Rousseau; and Rousseau was one of his professed admirers. In his letter to D'Alembert, speaking of English romances, he says, "these like the people are either sublime or contemptible; there never has been in any language a romance equal, or approaching to *Clarissa*." But the esteem was not reciprocal: Mr. Richardson was so much disgusted at some of the scenes, and the whole tendency of the "*New Eloisa*," that he secretly criticised the work (as he read it) in marginal notes; and thought with many others, that this writer "taught the passions to move at the command of vice."

It appears that Mr. Rousseau left Wootton in the summer of 1766, from a curious circumstance, which in substance is thus traditionally related in the neighbourhood of Wootton Hall. Mademoiselle le Vasseur, his governante had, without being noticed by the cook, detected her in the act of putting some ingredients in his broth, which she feared was for the purpose of taking his life by poison; it was however, attributed to the dislike of Madame for a country life, and she adopted this stratagem knowing his suspicions and irritable disposition. It had the effect she wished, for it appears that Rousseau condemned the inhospitable roof, from which he immediately retired and remained in the open air, for several hours, until a chaise (for which she had been dispatched on the instant to the next town) arrived to convey him from a spot, where, as he conceived, such a diabolical act was meditated, or so flagitious an act of inhospitality practised.





DRAWN BY F. CALVERT.

BIGSTON HALL,
SEAT OF MR SPARROW

PUBLISHED BY W EMANS BROMSGROVE ST BIRMINGHAM

ENGRAVED BY T. RADCLIFFE.

LOXLEY HALL AND PARK, STAFFORDSHIRE;

THE SEAT OF

THOMAS SNEYD KYNNERSLEY, Esq.

THIS handsome mansion situate upon an eminence in Loxley park, skirting Derbyshire, is about two miles from Uttoxeter, below which the river Blythe, after passing through Loxley, falls into the bosom of the river Dove. The name of part of the county in which Loxley is placed, is peculiarly descriptive of the scenery which embosoms it, for the *Woodlands* as it is called, is, well furnished with fine trees, and richly watered by the Blythe, and other tributary streams.

The mansion is of considerable extent, and its stone cased front, presents some handsome columns and a finely adorned Doric portico. On entering the spacious and lofty hall, the mind is pervaded with a reverential impression on viewing the antique and fine wainscoating, curiously adorned with paintings of the Virgin and Infant—the Saviour—the Flight into Egypt—the Apostles and Evangelists, and the Last Supper. Above these paintings, appears upon the Frieze, in good preservation the arms of the Stuarts, and of the nobility, gentry, and potentates of Christendom in the early part of the seventeenth century.

This estate was in the possession of the Kynnersley family at so early a period as the time of Edward III. when it passed to John de Kynnersley and continued in the family for several generations, until the year 1815, when Clement Kynnersley Esq., the last male possessor, dying, left it to his nephew Thomas Sneyd, (son of John Sneyd of Bishton, and subsequently of Belmont in Staffordshire), who added the name of Kynnersley to that of his own, upon his accession to this estate, which embraces all the advantages that can be desired in point of richness of soil, site, scenery, &c.

BISHTON HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE;

THE SEAT OF

JOHN SPARROW Esq.

BISHTON HALL is an admirable modern built mansion, in the hundred of Pirchill, two miles north of Rugeley, and near Wolseley bridge, where it has a beautiful view from the river Trent,

and Grand Trunk canal, and, at the rear of Wolseley park, rising in rich luxuriance, from the beautiful valley and banks of the river on the opposite side.

This seat presents a handsome and uniform appearance, having four chaste Doric columns, supporting a handsome portico at the front entrance. Two very neat wings add much to the beauty and length of the house, on the right of which, nearly embosomed in trees in the garden, is an hexagonal embattled tower constructed with considerable taste, and forming a very interesting object. The country around is particularly luxuriant, and the river Trent, richly fertilizes the valley, that adds so much grace to the noble mansions of Trentham, Ingestrie, Sandon and Tixall; in fact the junction of the *Birmingham*, *Staffordshire* and *Worcester* canals at *Autherly*, passing from the river Severn at Stourpoint to the *Grand Trunk* or *Trent* and *Mersey* canal, at Great Haywood, bestow great advantages to the above mansions, and to that of Shugborough.

John Sparrow, Esq. the proprietor of Bishton, was, for upwards of thirty years, chairman of the quarter sessions, and, in the year 1789, he served the office of high sheriff, for the county of Stafford. He was united to Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Moreton, Esq., a lineal descendant of the Ducies, who descended from a Norman family of distinction: Matthew Ducie Moreton was created Lord Ducie, Baron of Moreton, in the county of Stafford, June the ninth, 1720.

ALTON ABBEY, STAFFORDSHIRE;

THE SEAT OF

CHARLES TALBOT, EARL OF SHREWSBURY.

ALTON ABBEY is delightfully situate, and the favourite seat of the earl of Shrewsbury, to whom it is indebted for much of its splendour, and the classic taste evinced in its erection.

In passing from the lodge, and ascending a considerable hill, of upwards of one mile, to the mansion, through beautiful woods, the observatory erected by his lordship in the form of a square embattled tower, is, in the serpentine course of the road seen to great advantage. The approach to this demesne, from the town of Alton, is over a bridge that crosses the river Churnet.

The front and sides of this noble seat, are irregular in their general appearance, but the numerous embattled towers, and the principal entrance under the centre, which has a gable, and a large pointed window, has a very picturesque effect. Various classic figures adorn niches in the

hall—in which is a grand stair case, that leads to various splendid apartments, and a fine conservatory, of excellent workmanship, and of considerable beauty in appearance.

The pleasure grounds and gardens are laid out with great taste in this enchanting spot, which is ornamented with a colossal bust of Mr. Pitt, a conservatory, a light iron bridge which crosses a canal, and other objects, together with the pleasing variety of the rides, and the picturesque scenery of the surrounding country,—render this mansion as desirable as any in the county, and is situate about four miles and a half from Cheadle. It appears that, subsequent to the conquest, a castle was erected here, the walls of which were of an immense thickness, as some of their ruins still demonstrate: it was destroyed in the civil wars during the commonwealth.

The manor, which contained several villages, originally belonged to the family of Verdon, from whom, in the time of Edward II., it passed to Thomas, Lord Furnival, by marriage. It afterwards devolved to Neville, Lord Furnival, whose daughter married Sir John Talbot, afterwards created Earl of Shrewsbury: he was previously summoned to parliament in his wife's right, as Lord Furnival, and this brave and gallant nobleman, after winning forty battles, gloriously fell from a cannon ball, at Chastillon sur Derdon, in 1453: the present Earl of Shrewsbury, possessing this estate and the baronies of Verdon and Furnival.

It appears, according to Burke's peerage, that "John, Earl of Talbot, in the peerage of England; Earl of Waterford and Wexford, in the peerage of Ireland; was born on the eighteenth of March, 1791, married on the twenty seventh of June, 1814, Maria, eldest daughter of William Talbot, Esq. of castle Talbot, in the county of Wexford, by whom he has issue, two daughters:" his lordship succeeded to the honors of his family, as seventeenth earl, at the decease of his uncle, on the fifth of April, 1827,

For a full account of the lineage of this noble family, which traces its descent to a period antecedent to the conquest, we must refer our readers to Burke's peerage, which is highly interesting on this subject; for, after stating that RICHARD DE TALBOT, the first upon record, who is mentioned in Doomsday-book, as holding nine hides of land from Walter Gifford, Earl of Buckingham, and was married to Gerard de Gournay, it proceeds to give an account of their issue, and of their numerous successors, down to the present period.

MOTTO.—*Pret d'accomplir.*

SANDON HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE;

THE MANSION OF

DUDLEY RYDER, EARL OF HARROWBY.

THIS mansion is erected on the site of an ancient structure that was formerly surrounded and defended by a deep moat, and massive walls. Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, had this place given to him by William the Conqueror; it afterwards passed through the families of Verdon and Stafford, to that of Erdeswicke; Thomas Erdeswicke became its possessor in the twelfth of Edward III.; and it subsequently devolved to Hugh Erdeswicke and his son Thomas Erdeswicke, the antiquarian, and celebrated historian of his native county, was born in an old half timbered edifice of this place, where he died, and was interred in Sandon church, in April, 1603. The pedigree of his family is included in his epitaph, placed in the church, which he, a short time before his death, caused to be repaired.

George Digby, Esq. groom of the stole to James I., purchased the old mansion and estate, which afterwards passed to Charles, Lord Gerard, of Bromley, by Jane, daughter of George Digby, Esq. whose grand-daughter, on her marriage, conveyed it to the Duke of Hamilton, and Lord Archibald Hamilton erected the present very elegant mansion, upon the declivity of an eminence, from whence there is a most luxuriant prospect of fine plantations, and, over the river Trent, a vast and extensive range of country. The moat that surrounded the former residence is still to be seen, and the sloping hill behind it, is richly clothed.

The Earl of Harrowby has greatly enlarged and improved this noble mansion, which is in Pirchill hundred, at the distance of about four miles and a half from Stone, and standing on an eminence over the Chester road. The church, also stands upon a hill, and is now in the gift of the Earl of Harrowby.

A conspicuous object appears upon a wooded hill, opposite the south front of the house; it is a fine Doric column, the pedestal of which is surmounted by a vase, and the whole is highly ornamental amidst the surrounding scenery. The following inscription appears on the southern side of the pedestal:

GULIELMO PITT.
DUDLEIUS BARO HARROWBY
PATRI PATRIA CIVIS
AMICO AMICUS
MÆRENS POSUIT.

On the north side

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY
OF
WILLIAM PITT.
M.DCCC.VI.

The Earl of Harrowby, (Dudley Ryder, D.C.L., and F.S.A.) Viscount Sandon, of Sandon, in the county of Stafford, and Baron Harrowby of Harrowby, in the county of Lincoln; lord president of the council, high steward of Tiverton, and an official trustee of the British Museum, was born the twenty-second of December, 1762; married, in 1795, Susan Leveson, daughter of Granville, first Marquis of Stafford, by whom he has issue; Dudley Viscount Sandon, M.P. born the twenty-third of May, 1798, for whose issue, and the lineage of the family, vide Burke's peerage.

MOTTO.—*Servata fides cineri.*

SWINNERTON HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE;

THE MANSION OF
THOMAS FITZHERBERT, ESQ.

SWINNERTON-HALL in Pirchill hundred, about three miles north west from the town of Stone, is a noble pile of building, and appears in the original character and style of architecture of the time of Queen Anne, in whose reign it was erected; it stands on a considerable eminence, and the front being divided into three compartments, and the centre ornamented with four pilasters and two wings, all graced and surmounted by vases, produces a grand effect: the prospects around the fine part of the county in which it stands, with the distant views of Shropshire, and parts of Cheshire and Worcestershire are highly picturesque.

The principal entrance to the great hall, the spacious apartments, and the elegance with which the whole interior is fitted up and furnished, and the valuable pictures the mansion contains, bespeak the refined taste of the successive members of the family; the "ancient

and noble descent of which, having for their founder, Heribert, Earl of Vermandois, about the year 900." Of this family was Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, a very learned judge of the Common Pleas in the reign of Henry VII: he was born at Norbury in Derbyshire, and died in 1538, he left behind him many valuable works, of which the chief are "The grand abridgement collected by that most reverend judge, Mr. Anthony Fitzherbert, lately conferred with his own manuscript corrected by himself, together with the references of the cases to the books by which they may easily be found; an improvement never before made;" "the office and authority of justices of peace;" "the office of sheriffs, bailiffs, of liberties, escheators, constables, coroners, &c." and "the new Natura Brevium," always held in very high esteem.

Mr. Neele observes that he also left a "book of husbandry," said to have been often reprinted in the times of Mary and Elizabeth; it is now extremely scarce, but a copy is preserved in the Family Library. Although in some degree obsolete, it is remarkable that a work of which Harte in his essays on husbandry says that "for the space of one hundred years we had not such a systematical body of husbandry as Fitzherbert's," should not since have been reprinted. Of his works altogether, Fuller remarks; "these his writings, are monuments which will longer continue his memory, than the flat blue marble stone under which he lies interred in Norbury church."

The old study of Sir Anthony at the ancient mansion of Norbury, (which is now a farm house) is wainscoted with oak, on the panels are inscribed, sentences from Scripture, in old English characters; the whole is judiciously preserved.

Thomas Fitzherbert Esq. who built this mansion, died without issue, at Nice in 1781; his estates of Swinnerton, devolving to his brother Basil, came to his son Thomas Fitzherbert the present proprietor of this seat, which is the principal one of this branch of the family.

INGESTRIE, STAFFORDSHIRE;

THE SEAT OF

CHARLES CHETWYND TALBOT, CHETWYND, EARL TALBOT.

This venerable mansion is said to have belonged to the same family since the period of Edward III.; it originally formed part of the barony of Stafford, and was anciently called Ingestrent, and was granted by William the Conqueror, to Robert de Toeni, it was subsequently held, (in the time of Henry II.) by Eudo de Milton, and passed to the present noble family through the marriage of Isabella de Milton to Sir William Chetwynd.

This venerable structure, situate on the acclivity of an eminence, is within three miles of Stafford, and although it has undergone various alterations, it still retains a fine Elizabethan character. The centre, which is of brick, contains several large windows, to each end of which a stone

projection is attached, and, four windows are laid into pairs, by a flat square column. The south front presents its pristine appearance; the north front having been pulled down, and another erected by the present Earl Talbot, in the same style of architecture, to correspond with the south front, thus forming an uniform grand exterior.

There is also a very handsome stone tower, projecting from the building, in the centre of which is the entrance to the mansion: the tower is surmounted by a handsome and richly carved balustrade, and a similar one below, passes along the whole front: within the upper ballustrade rises a sort of lantern cupola tower, supported by columns, answering the purpose of an observatory, and for which it was perhaps formerly used.

In the great hall is a fine portrait of Walter Chetwynd Esq. who, at his own expence, erected the church at Ingestrie, in 1676.

Within these few years a handsome approach has been made to this noble seat from the south; and, where an ancient triumphal arch formerly stood, a neat and appropriate lodge entrance has been erected.

The deer park, and what is termed the Wilderness, form the most exquisite variegated pleasure grounds in grove and forest scenery. The surrounding pleasure grounds are extensively and abundantly wooded, a number of oaks of immense size, some nearly five yards in the girth, at the distance of nearly two yards from the ground, add beauty to the variety of noble walks several of which extend to the skirts of the wood.

The lineal descent of this ancient and illustrious family is from John Talbot Esq. of Salwarp, grandson of Sir Gilbert Talbot of Grafton, knight-bannaret, knight of the Garter, one of the most renowned warriors and statesmen of his time, third son of John, second earl of Shrewsbury, by his wife, lady Elizabeth Butler, daughter of James earl of Ormond; the great grandson of the aforesaid John Talbot. To proceed with the full lineage of this, and other noble families would exceed the limits of this work, but for which we refer our readers to Burke's Peerage, wherein the title is thus defined: "Charles Chetwynd, Chetwynd Talbot, Earl Talbot, Viscount Ingestrie, in the county of Stafford, and Baron Talbot of Hensol in the county of Glamorgan; a knight of the most illustrious order of St. Patrick, F. R. S; F. A. S.; born April twenty-fifth 1777, inherited the family honors, as second Earl on the demise of his father, nineteenth of May, 1793, married twenty-eighth of August 1800, Frances Thomasine, eldest daughter of Charles Lambert Esq. of Bean Park, in the County of Meath, (who died in 1819) by whom he had issue, eight sons and two daughters," of whom Mr. Burke inserts that "his lordship's eldest daughter, lady Frances Charlotte; married in 1821, William fourth earl of Dartmouth, and died in 1823."

Lord Talbot was nominated viceroy of Ireland, upon the retirement of the late duke of Richmond, and executed the duties of that important government, till the appointment of the Marquis of Wellesley, in 1821. His lordship is lord lieutenant of the county of Stafford.

MOTTO.—*Humani Nihil alienum.*

TIXALL HOUSE, STAFFORDSHIRE ;

THE MANSION OF

SIR THOS. ASTON CLIFFORD CONSTABLE, BART.

Tixall is another of the manors bestowed by William the Conqueror on Robert de Toeni, or de Stadford. It subsequently passed to the family of Wastenays, and was purchased from them by the celebrated judge Littleton, whose grand-daughter, by marriage, brought it to Sir John Aston of *Haywood*, knight bannaret. The honorable Barbara Aston—daughter of James (fifth Lord Aston) married the honorable Thomas Clifford, from whom it devolved to the present proprietor.

This mansion stands in the centre of a fine park, and nearly in the centre of the parish. The south front is the only portion that can be fully seen, and this, it appears, was added by the honorable Thomas Clifford, to the quadrangle built by James, Lord Aston, about eighty years since: Mr. Mogg observes, that the present mansion “was erected about forty years since, but contains little worthy of notice; there is, however, a magnificent gateway in front, embellished with three series of columns, Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian, immediately between which formerly stood the ancient mansion, a building erected in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII., and remarkable as having contained a great number of windows, without any two of them being alike. On the heath adjoining the park, there are two tumuli, called the King and Queen’s sow, of which nothing is known, either respecting their origin or history; but, early in the last century, two urns were found near them, supposed to be of Roman workmanship. In the time of Henry VII. Sir William Chetwynd was barbarously murdered on this heath, by a number of armed villains, hired for the purpose by Sir Humphrey Stanley, who, was incited to the commission of the diabolical deed, by jealousy, that the former met with greater preferment near the sovereign than himself.”

This edifice is built of the stone of the place, and is termed Tixall stone. The shafts of the Doric columns of the portico are formed of single blocks, each fifteen feet in length. The extended front, by a screen on each side, is ornamented by columns of the same order, and the screens surmounted by pedestals, and lions couchant.

Of the interior, &c. Mr. Neele says the particulars given by him, are chiefly from an “Historical description of Tixall; drawn up by the present proprietor, and his brother Arthur Clifford, Esq., printed at Paris in 1817.” The limits of this publication will not admit the following either, beyond a mere outline.

The hall and library do not appear of great extent, neither exceeding twenty six feet square, by about sixteen feet high, the latter contains about four thousand volumes, and a fine painting,



Drawn by F. Colver

Engraved by J. W. W. W.

THE STATE OF MR. THOMAS ASTON CONSTABLE

Engraved by W. J. W. W.

by "Edward Bird, R. A., of the landing of Louis XVIII., at Calais in 1814." This truly interesting painting, from being taken on the spot, and containing portraits not only of Louis XVIII., but correct ones of the French and English nobility that attended on the occasion, is considered very valuable. It has been compared with one previously painted by Mr. Bird, of the "Embarkation at Dover, in the same year, for his majesty, then prince regent, and which is now in the royal collection."

The dining and other rooms contain a fine collection of paintings, of which the following are the principal.

A large painting by Richard Van Bleek, containing seven portraits, as large as life; viz. Lord Aston, of Forfar, and Lady Mary Howard, his wife, and their attendants.

A full length portrait of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, in his robes,

A portrait of Catherine Gage, second wife of the fourth Lord Aston.

Fine heads, ... *Vandyke and Corn. Janson.*

Cataline's conspiracy, ... *Salvator Rosa.*

Two large historical pictures, ... *Casali.*

A fine portrait of Cromwell, Earl of Essex, ... *Holbein.*

Sportsmen, ... *Murillo.*

Virgin and Child, ... *Solmeni.*

Christ in the garden, ... *Carlo Maratti*

The gate-house of three stories, ornamented with Corinthian, Doric, and Ionic columns, flanked by four octagon towers, is said to be the most chaste antique edifice of this description in England: behind it are the ruins of the ancient family seat, completed in 1555. The remains are curious—as they still display a Gothic bay window—with rich Gothic ornaments; and an Oriel, the ceiling of which still exhibit the arms of the ancestors of Aston, in the families of Montfort, Freville, Byron, and Walsh.

Sir Thomas Aston Constable, Baronet, of Tixhall, in the county of Stafford, succeeded to the title, upon the demise of his father the twenty-fifth of February, 1823, and is the second baronet, and is a branch of the ancient and noble house of Clifford, for the full lineage of which, we refer to Burke's peerage, where it is also stated that "Sir Thomas assumed, by royal permission in 1821, the surname and arms of "Constable," only: his great aunts the Cliffords having both married into the Constable family.

MOTTO. *Semper paratus.*

STONE.

STONE, in the parish of the same name, is a well built market town, situate on the northern bank of the river Trent, in the southern division of Pircill hundred, seven miles north of Stafford,—one hundred and forty-one north-west from London, forty-five from Manchester, twenty-two from Lichfield, and nine from Newcastle-under-line. This ancient town originated, as is generally stated, from the excessive barbarism and cruelty of Wulfere, one of the kings of Mercia, who slew his two sons, for deserting his pagan principles, and adopting those of Christianity, and the temples that he had raised for idolatrous purposes, he afterwards converted to Christian churches. The name of Stone arose from the mass of that article collected by the Saxons (an usual custom with them to serve as monuments of Christianity) and placed upon the spot where the sons of Wulfere had been slain. Their mother, Queen Erminilda, caused a church to be erected at this place over their tomb, and the town of Stone gradually rose, and was so named as commemorative of the event.

Mr. Mogg states that the town has considerably increased in size since the formation of the canal between the Trent and the Mersey, and that it has some good charitable institutions, and a handsome church, originally dedicated to St. Weelford; on the north side of the cemetery there is a large stone vault, with two wings, belonging to the Jervoise family.

Its religious institutions formerly consisted of a monastery, and a nunnery, the former was founded by Wulfere, king of Mercia, who, though brought up in the pagan worship, became a convert to Christianity after his father's death, but, subsequently embraced paganism, and educated his children in that worship; his sons, however, exchanged their religion for that of St. Chad, which so incensed the monarch, that he one day followed them to their devotions, and immediately put them to death; yet the king at a subsequent period, became a sincere penitent, he once more returned to the true faith, and abolished idolatry from his dominions.

The nunnery was established by Erminilda, queen of the above sovereign; but the female votaries were afterwards removed, and the house converted into a priory, by filling it with canons from Kenilworth abbey, to which it was made a cell.

Cooke, in his topography, thus states the period, &c. "At the distance of one mile from Darlaston, we arrive at Stone, where Walford and Rupinus were murdered by their father, for embracing Christianity; but, Wulfere, being afterwards converted to the faith, founded a college of secular canons, after the year 670, in honour of the sons whom he had slain." These canons being driven away by the Danes, about the time of the conquest, some nuns had got possession of the house; but, by the means of Robert de Stafford, they were changed for regular canons from *Kenilworth* (as before noticed), in the reign of Henry I. to which house this priory was a cell, in 1260, when another Robert de Stafford, got it made independent, save only the rights of patronage, and a yearly pension. at the suppression, the site was granted to George Harper.



DESIGNED BY F. CALVERT

ENGRAVED BY T. RADCLIFFE

BARLASTON HALL,

THE SEAT OF RALPH ADDERLEY ESQ^r

PUBLISHED BY W. EMANS BROMSGROVE ST. BIRMINGHAM

Mr. Pitt remarks that “this manor is not mentioned in Domesday book, but the conqueror gave it to Erasmus, who held it till the reign of King Henry I., and then it being forfeited to the king by Enysan de Walton, who had killed two nuns and a priest, who had settled in a small oratory in this town, in honour of St. Wulfade, before murdered there, was given to Robert de Stafford, who, out of great devotion to that saint, founded a priory for canons regular of St. Augustine, and, after him their family made it their burial place.” Mr. Pitt further observes that, “about half a mile from the town, a good stone bridge leads to the pleasant village of *Walton*, whence Enysan de Walton, before mentioned, took his name. This Enysan (says Pen-nant) was the true re-founder of the priory at Stone; but the Staffords, who were his superiors assumed the honour of this new foundation. The church of the priory contained many magnificent tombs of this great family at the period of the dissolution, at which time they were removed for safety to the Augustines of Stafford, but were afterwards destroyed with that place.”

The town of Stone in 1821, contained five hundred and thirty-two houses, and two thousand eight hundred and fifty-five inhabitants, many of whom, like those of Stafford, are employed in the manufacture of shoes: at a short distance from the town is a picturesque object in a wind-mill formerly used for the manufacture of wire, &c. The market-day is on Tuesday.

The church is a noble Gothic structure, with a square, but low tower, containing eight bells; is a modern building and has ten windows on each side; it is dedicated to St. Michael, and is a curacy, in the patronage of the king. There is also a free grammar school, and other charitable institutions in the town.

In the neighbourhood there are a number of noble and splendid mansions, among which are those of Trentham hall, the Marquis of Stafford's; Meaford hall, Viscount St. Vincent's; Swinerton park, Thomas Fitzherbert's, Esq. &c. &c.

Stone has four annual fairs; the Tuesday after Midlent; Shrove Tuesday; Whit-Tuesday; and August the fifth for sheep and cattle.

BARLASTON HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE;

THE SEAT OF

RALPH ADDERLEY, ESQ.

This beautiful mansion is situate on a fine eminence, commanding a most extensive view of the surrounding country, and looking over the most delightfully picturesque portion of the vale

of Trent. The grand junction canal, (which forms a communication with the rivers Mersey, Dee, Ribble, Ouse, Derwent, &c.) passes through the grounds of this handsome pile of building which, although backed, and embosomed in trees, not only commands the view of a vast tract of country, but can also, from its great elevation, be seen for many miles.

MEAFORD HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE;

THE SEAT OF

LORD ST. VINCENT

At Darlaston, within one mile of Stone, is Meaford-Hall, the family residence of Lord St. Vincent. This excellent family mansion is situate in a fertile valley. It has no peculiar *architectural* pretensions; but those of its noble owners, are of a *higher order*, and which Burke, in his peerage, thus describes:—"Edward Jervis, Jervis, Viscount St. Vincent, of Meaford, in the county of Stafford, married first, the twenty-ninth of January, 1790, Mary Cassander, second daughter of Thomas, tenth Lord Say and Seale; by whom he has issue,

William Jervis, born the eleventh of October, 1794, married the twenty-eighth of July, 1815, Sophia, daughter of George Narbonne Vincent, Esq. and has issue

MARIA.

And, secondly, (his lordship's marriage having been dissolved, by act of parliament, in 1798) Mary-Anne, second daughter of Thomas Parker, Esq., of Park hall, in the county of Stafford, by whom he has

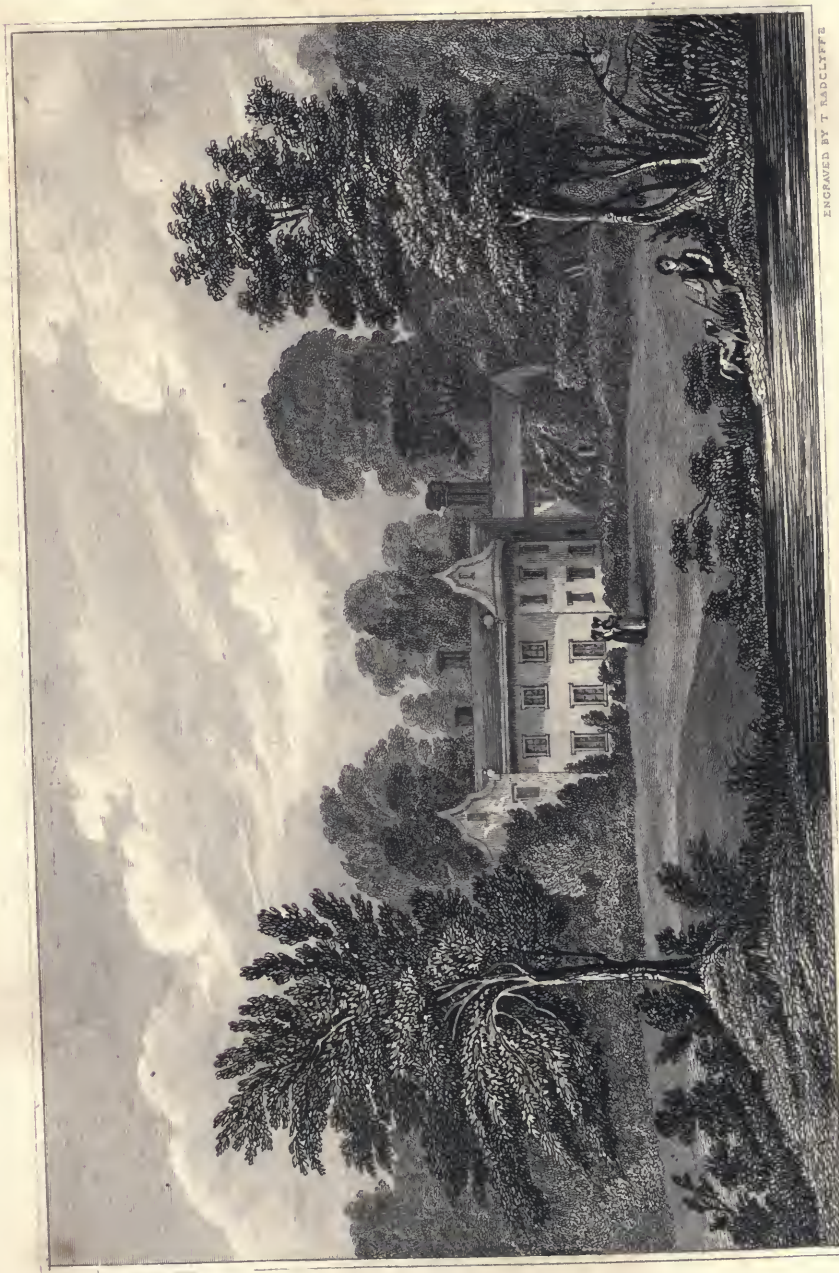
JOHN,

EDWARD, and

MARY-ANNE.

His lordship succeeded to the peerage, as second Viscount, at the decease of his uncle, the late Earl St. Vincent, on the fifteenth of March, 1823, and assumed, by royal permission, on the seventh of May, in the same year, the surname and arms of Jervis only, instead of those of his own personal family, Ricketts.

"LINEAGE.—John Jervis, Esq., second son of Swynfen Jervis, Esq., a lawyer of eminence (descended from James Jervis, of Chatkyll, in the county of Stafford, living temp. Hen. VIII. by Elizabeth, daughter of George Parker, Esq., of Park hall,) was born at Meaford, on the nineteenth of January, 1734, and having entered the royal navy at a very early period of life,



DRAWN BY F. CALVERT

MEAFORD HALL,

THE SEAT OF THE RT HON^{BLE} LORD ST VINCENT.

PUBLISHED BY W. EMANS, BROMSGROVE ST BIRMINGHAM

ENGRAVED BY T. RADCLIFFE



OF STAFFORDSHIRE.

(in his tenth year), attained the highest honours in that gallant profession, and was elevated to the peerage, on the twenty-seventh day of May, 1797, by the title of *Baron Jervis, of Meaford, in the county of Stafford*; and **EARL ST. VINCENT**, in consequence of the splendid victory he had achieved in that year, over the Spanish fleet, off cape St. Vincent. His lordship was nominated first lord of the admiralty, in 1801; and created, on the twenty-seventh of April, in the same year, **VISCOUNT ST. VINCENT**, with remainder in default of male issue, to his nephews, William Henry Ricketts, and Edward Jervis Ricketts, successively, and afterwards, to those gentlemen's sister, Mary, Countess of Northesk, and her male descendants. The earl married in 1783, Martha, daughter of Lord Chief Baron Parker, who died without issue, in 1816. His lordship died in March, 1823, when the earldom and barony expired, but the viscountcy devolved upon the younger nephew (the eldest, Captain William Ricketts, of the royal navy, having been unfortunately drowned in 1805, and leaving only daughters), **EDWARD JERVIS**, the present viscount, who is second son of William Henry Ricketts, Esq. of Canaan, in the island of Jamaica, by the deceased earl's sister Mary.

CREATION.—The twenty-seventh of April, 1801.

MOTTO.—*Thus.*

Exploits.—The intrepid and distinguished conduct of Vice Admiral Sir John Jervis—are thus admirably described by Mr. Pitt, in his topographical history of this county.

“ In the latter end of 1793, his majesty having determined to send a formidable armament to the West Indies, to reduce the French islands in that quarter, and to secure his own from any attack of the enemy, under the command of Lieutenant General Sir Charles Grey, K. B.; Vice Admiral Sir John Jervis, K. B. was nominated commander-in-chief of the naval force, on the same expedition.

On Monday, January the sixth, 1794, they arrived off Barbadoes, and immediately prepared for the expedition against Martinique; for which the total military force embarked was six thousand effectives, besides two hundred and twenty-four sick. The fleet sailed from Barbadoes, on February the third, and appeared before Martinique, on Wednesday, February the fifth; on the following day the general effected a landing. After some intermediate operations, the town of St. Pierre was attacked by sea and land, and carried; the enemy's strength was then concentrated in one point at fort Louis and Bourbon; these the admiral now attacked, and, on the twentieth of February, these strong holds were completely invested: on March the twenty-fifth fort Bourbon was surrendered; fort Louis was also taken by storm. The island of Martinique being thus conquered, the fleet and army then proceeded on March the thirtieth for St. Lucia, which also surrendered on the fourth of April. On Tuesday, April the eighth, the commanders proceeded against Guadaloupe; fort Fleur d'Epee was taken on the twelfth, and with this fell Hog Island, and fort Louis, an old fortification, commanding the entrance into the harbour of Point a Petre, which town was also taken possession of at the same time by Sir Charles Grey. On the thirteenth the army was re-embarked, and landed on Bas Terre at Petit Bourg, in another part of the island; the admiral landed at Auce-de-Bailiff: the Palmiste was taken by assault, and the island of Guadaloupe was surrendered to the commander-in-chief on the twenty-third of April. In June, an armament arrived from France, made good their landing on Grand

Terre, and retook fort Fleur d'Epee by storm. The admiral was at this time with the general at St. Christophers, on his return to England. The commanders instantly determined to return to Guadaloupe, and pushed for Basterre, where they arrived on the seventh; Sir Charles Grey took the heights of Mascott, and several actions took place; but the general found it now in vain to attempt any thing against Fleur d'Epee, at this season, with an army so greatly reduced by the yellow fever, as well as service. Having therefore made the best arrangements to enable him to renew his attacks after the hurricane months, he embarked on board the Boyne, which proceeded to fort Royal Bay, where she was laid up during those months in a strong harbour called Trois Islet Bay, and the sick and wounded were landed for the benefit of fresh air; the general then sailed with the admiral to Martinique, and established his head quarters at St. Pierre. On the thirtieth of September, the enemy having been too successful against the little remnants of the army in Guadaloupe, the admiral embarked, and sailed from Martinique, and anchored off Grozier, in the bay of Point-a-Petre. But our troops there, under General Graham, reduced by fatigue and sickness, and no longer able to undergo duty, were forced to capitulate. Sir John Jervis, who had made every attempt to succour General Graham's camp at Berville, and had been an unwilling spectator from the fleet, of the surrender of that camp to the enemy, now made sail for Bas Terre, to render every assistance in his power to general Prescott; and, on October the ninth, anchored within half a cable's length of the town. However, after various attempts to assist general Prescott, the admiral, worn down by long and severe exertions, the fatigues of which were augmented by anxiety for the welfare of the service, that not all his exertions could promote without the arrival of a strong reinforcement, together with the unhealthiness of the climate, found himself no longer able to continue on this station, and, therefore, to the great grief of General Prescott, was obliged to give up his command to admiral Caldwell, and embarking his seamen, under Lieutenant James, from fort Matilda, sailed for St. Pierre; when every thing was arranged between the several commanders, Sir Charles Grey and his suite embarked once more with Sir John Jervis, on board the Boyne. On November the twenty-seventh they sailed for England, and, after a tedious voyage (being for near a month tossed about the channel by contrary winds) arrived at Spithead, January, the twenty-first 1795."

In February 1797, he fought the famous battle off Cape St. Vincent, for which he was rewarded with a peerage. *The New Annual Register* gives the following account of this glorious victory.

"The British fleet, or to speak more correctly, the British squadron under the command of admiral Sir John Jervis, amounted to no more than fifteen sail of the line, four frigates, a sloop of war, and a cutter; of these, six were three-deckers, eight were of seventy-four guns, and one of sixty-four. The Spanish fleet consisted of twenty-seven sail of the line, one of which was a four decker, and carried one hundred and thirty-six guns, six were of one hundred and twelve guns, each, two of eighty-four guns, and eighteen of seventy-four. The Spanish admiral Don Josef de Cordova, had sailed from Carthagena, on the fourth of February, and passed Gibraltar on the following day, having left in that bay, three line-of-battle ships, supposed to be laden with military stores for the Spanish troops before that garrison. On the night of the eleventh, this fleet had been discovered by the Minerva frigate, which carried the broad pennant of Commo-

dore Nelson, then on his way from the Mediterranean to join admiral Jervis. Captain Foote of the *Nigre*, also kept company with them for some days previous to the thirteenth, and that night they appeared so near the British fleet, that their signal guns were distinctly heard. The signals were, therefore, made for the British fleet to prepare for battle, and at day-break on the fourteenth they were in complete order. The morning was dark and hazy, but about half past six the *Culloden* made the signal for five sail in the south-west quarter; at eight o'clock the squadron was ordered to form in close order, and, in a few minutes after, the signal was repeated to prepare for battle. At a little after ten, the *Minerva* made the signal for twenty sail in the south-west quarter, and, in about half an hour after, the enemy's fleet was visible to all the British squadron. The ships first discovered by the *Culloden*, were, at this period, separated from their main body, which was bearing down in some confusion, to join the separated ships. It appeared to have been the British admiral's intention at the first, to cut off those vessels from the enemy's fleet, before the main body could arrive to their assistance, and, with this view, the fast sailing ships were ordered to chase, but, observing the positions of their main body, he afterwards formed his fleet into a line of battle, a-head and a-stern, as most convenient. At about twenty-six minutes past eleven, the admiral communicated his intention to pass through the enemy's line, and, immediately after, the signal was made to engage. At about half past eleven, the action commenced by the van ship, the *Culloden*, commanded by captain Trowbridge, firing against the enemy's headmost ships to the windward. As the squadron advanced, however, the action became more general; and it was soon apparent that the British admiral had accomplished his design of passing through the enemy's line. In the meantime the regular and animated fire of the British fleet, was but feebly returned by the enemy's ships to windward, which were also completely prevented from joining their companions to leeward, and obliged to haul their wind on the larboard tack; thus a part of the Spanish fleet was effectually cut off from the main body, and they were reduced to the necessity of also forming on their larboard tack, apparently with the intention of passing through or to the leeward of the British line; but such was the reception they experienced from the centre of the British, that they were obliged to put about, and did not appear in the action till the close of the day. The British admiral having fortunately thus obtained his first object, now directed his whole attention to the enemy's main body to windward, which was reduced at this time, by the separation of the ships to leeward, to eighteen sail of the line. At a little after twelve o'clock, the signal was made for the British fleet to attack in succession, and soon after, the signal for again passing the enemy's line; while the Spanish admiral's design appeared to be, to join his ships to leeward by wearing round the rear of the British line. The intention of the enemy was, however, soon perceived by commodore Nelson, whose station in the rear, afforded him an opportunity of observing the manœuvre. In order to frustrate the design, therefore, his ship the *Captain*, had no sooner passed the Spanish rear, than he ordered her to wear, and stand on the other tack towards the enemy. In executing this bold manœuvre, the commodore found himself alongside the Spanish admiral, the *Santissima Trinidad* of one hundred and thirty-six guns, which is said to be at present the largest ship in existence. Notwithstanding this immense disparity (the *Captain* being only a seventy-four), this brave officer did not shrink from the contest; though the Spaniard was warmly supported by her two seconds a-head and a-stern, which were each of them three-deckers.

While he sustained, however, this unequal conflict, his friends were eagerly pressing to his assistance; the enemy's attention was, therefore, directed to the Culloden, captain Trowbridge, and the Blenheim, captain Frederick; and the able support afforded by these vessels to commodore Nelson, and the approach of the rear-admiral Parker, with four others of the British line, determined the Spanish commander to relinquish his design of re-joining his ships to leeward, and to make the signal for his main body to haul their wind, and make sail on the larboard tack. The advantage was now evidently on the side of the British, and while the advanced division warmly pressed the centre and rear of the enemy, the admiral meditated with his division a co-operation which might effectually compel some of them to surrender. In the confusion of their retreat, several of the Spanish ships had doubled on each other. It was, therefore, admiral Jervis's plan to reach the weathermost of those ships, then to bear up and take them all in succession, with the seven ships composing his division. The casual position of the rear-ships in his own division, however, prevented the executing this design; he therefore ordered the leading ship, the Excellent, captain Collingwood, to bear up, while, with his own ship the Victory, he passed to Leeward of the rearmost ships of the enemy. Captain Collingwood, in obedience to the admiral's orders, passed between the two rearmost ships of the enemy, and gave one of them, the San Isidoro, so effectual a broadside, that, having been much injured before, she was obliged to submit. The Excellent then passed on to the relief of the Captain, which was engaged with a three-decker, carrying a flag; but, before she could arrive, the vessel became entangled with a second, a two-decker; in this state they were both boarded by the Captain, and the smaller of them, the San Nicholas, was in a short time in the possession of her opponents. The three-decker, the San Joseph, followed the fate of her second, and became immediately a prize to commodore Nelson, who headed the party which boarded her from the San Nicholas. In the mean time admiral Jervis ordered the Victory to be placed on the lee quarter of the rearmost ship of the enemy, the Salvator del Mundo; and threw in so effectual a discharge that her commander, seeing the Barfleur, carrying vice-admiral Waldegrave's flag, bearing down to second the Victory, thought proper to strike. Thus four of the enemy's ships were in possession of the British, while the van ships continued to press hard on the Santissima Trinidad, the Spanish admiral's ship, and the others which composed the rear of the flying fleet. The career of victory was, however, stopped by circumstances not in the power of the British commander to control. The ships which, in the morning, had been separated from the main body of the Spanish fleet, were not able to make their approach; two fresh ships which had not appeared in the action, bore down from windward, and two of the flying ships tacked about to support their chiefs. These circumstances, therefore, with the lateness of the hour, and the necessity of securing the prizes, determined the conquering admiral to bring-to.—A little after four in the afternoon, the signal was made to this effect; and a strong line was formed for the protection of the prizes and disabled vessels. The enemy's fresh ships, on approaching, opened a fire on the covering ships; but, though superior in number, and fresh for action, they contented themselves with a few irregular broadsides, and left the British admiral to sail off triumphantly with his prizes, which the reader will remember amounted to four; viz. the Salvator del Mundo, and the San Joseph of one hundred and twelve guns; the San Nicholas of eighty-four; and the San Isidoro, of seventy-four. The Spanish admiral, which was greatly the object of attention



DRAWN BY F. SALVERT

ENGRAVED BY T. FADCLIFFE

DARLASTON HALL,
Staffordshire

PUBLISHED BY W. EMANS FROMSGROVE ST. BIRMINGHAM

to the British ships, was rendered a perfect wreck; her firing had ceased before the close of the action, and some even affirm that she had struck her colours. The loss of the British in this engagement, in killed and wounded, was exactly three hundred men. The loss of the Spaniards which were captured, amounted to six hundred and ninety-three; and the ships which escaped must also have suffered considerably. So important a victory, with such a disparity of force, is, perhaps, unparalleled in our naval annals. The ability displayed by the commander, was only to be equalled by the valour and adroitness of the seamen; indeed, we have been informed by an eye-witness that the fire of the British was superior to that of their opponents, in the proportion of five or six to one, during the whole of the action; and the expenditure of ammunition, was, consequently, beyond example. The Culloden, it is said, expended one hundred and seventy barrels of powder; the Captain, one hundred and forty-six; and the Blenheim, one hundred and eighty. The Spaniards fought bravely, but with little skill; and it is but fair to remark, that their fleet was ill equipped, and very indifferently manned, and in no respect fit for action; their flag ship had not more than sixty or eighty seamen on board; the rest consisted of impressed landsmen, or soldiers, of their new levies. As the port of Cadiz had been their original destination, and as many of their ships were disabled, the Spaniards manifested no inclination to renew the action, but took shelter in Cadiz."

Sir John Jervis for this signal victory, was rewarded with an earldom, created Baron Jervis, of Meaford, in the county of Stafford, and Earl St. Vincent, to him and his heirs in form and manner, as before stated.

DARLASTON HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE;

THE SEAT OF

SWINFEN JERVIS, ESQ.

THIS ancient family mansion, situate on a delightful bank, — embosomed with trees, and the river Trent flowing under it—is near Darlaston bridge, which crosses the river; the fertile and luxuriant meadows, together with the ancient plantations of fir and other trees, which skirt the road, give a peculiarly rich and interesting feature to this part of the county, and in which the highly esteemed families of the Jervis's have so long been held in estimation.

SPRING VALE, NEAR STONE.

THIS delightful vale has been much noticed by travellers, on the great road between London and Liverpool, and there is not perhaps, one that more particularly arrests attention. Although the building erected on the rising grounds, is devoted to persons afflicted with nervous or mental maladies—yet the propriety of selecting so cheerful, healthy, and salubrious a spot, is not only highly praiseworthy, but, under the able and humane conduct of Mr. Thomas Bakewell, its highly respected proprietor, has been productive of incalculable good; and, as a contemporary observes, “the proprietor has laid out the grounds with such taste and diversity that the whole has more the appearance of a beautiful retired seat, the residence of some opulent individual, than a receptacle for those labouring under distressing mental aberration; for which it is established; art and nature have here acted in unison, and the boldness of the one has been softened down by the hand of the other; hill and dale, groves, water, and fountains are judiciously intermingled; and, perhaps, no spot could be found more proper for an asylum of the kind to which it is appropriated, than Spring Vale; having the advantage of overlooking a great thoroughfare road, yet too distant for any noise to assail its quietness, from the numerous travellers and carriages which are continually upon it, while the salubrity of the air and the purity of its waters, have been long proverbial.” In truth, the whole of this part of Staffordshire may not only be termed a perfect garden, but, from the circumstance of the fine wild-wood scenery, the highly cultivated taste evinced in the noble mansions that are erected in almost every direction, and the extensive parks and groves that surround them, have very naturally given rise to poetical strains, from which we present our readers with the following from a poem entitled, “The Vale of Trent,” and, as it refers to several mansions that we have already, and shall hereafter describe, they may not perhaps be considered inappropriate.

THE VALE OF TRENT.

“Illustrious vale! from whose gay meads arose,
The pride of Britain, terror of her foes!
O! dear to patriots, sacred spot of earth,
Which to his country gave St. VINCENT, birth.
In Meaford’s* bow’rs he fann’d the infant flame,
Whose lustre led him through the rank of fame,
Till vanquished empire trembles at his name;
So the young eagles leap from branch to branch,
Then through the air a measured distance launch;
Their flight still length’ning ever fir’d to rise,
Till their proud crests are lost among the skies.”

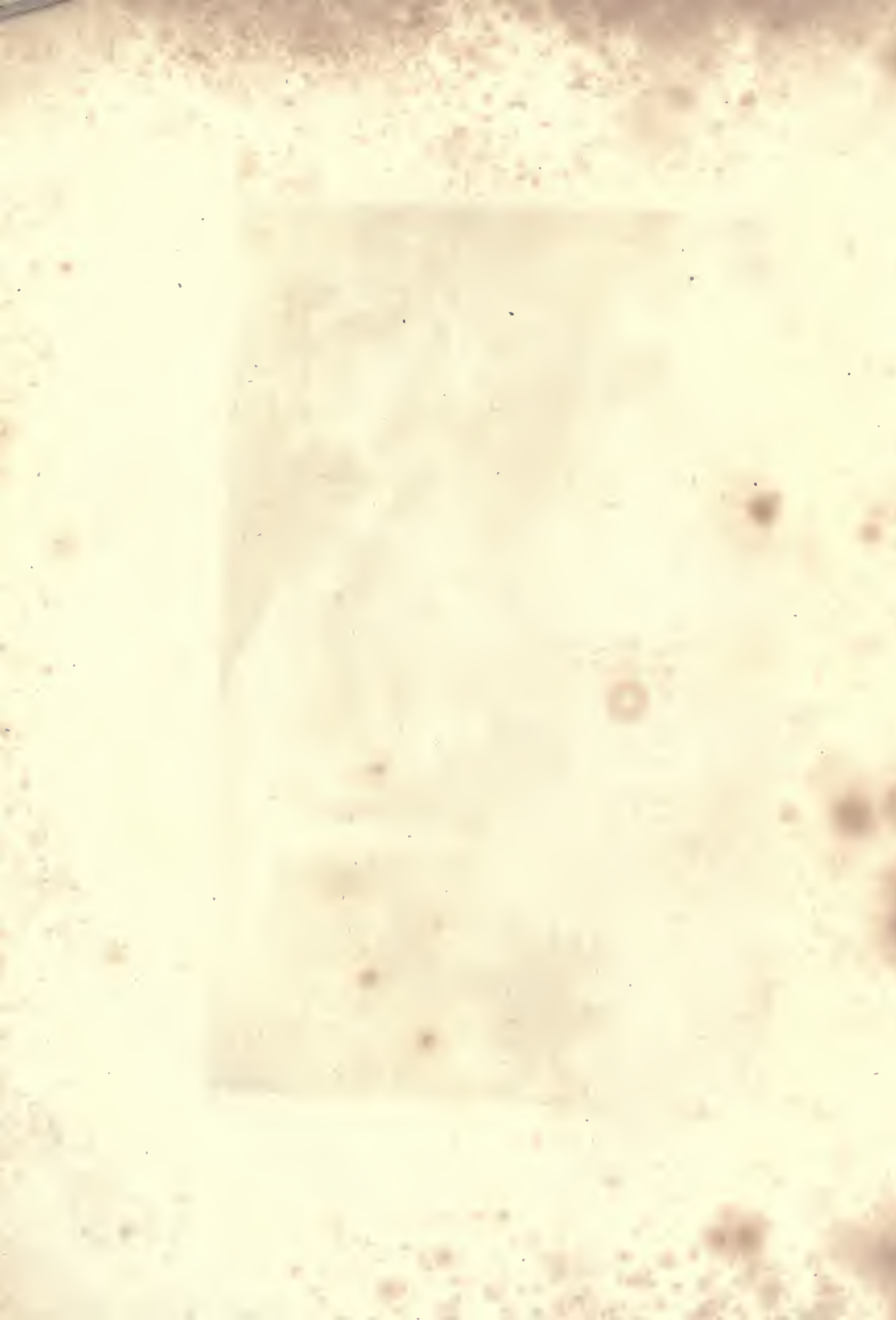
* The place of Earl St. Vincent's nativity.



DRAWN BY F. CALVERT

ENGRAVED BY T. RADCLIFFE

SPRING VALE,
NEAR STONE STAFFORDSHIRE
SEAT OF T. BAKEWELL ESQ.^R
PUBLISHED BY W. EMANS BROMSGROVE ST. BIRMINGHAM



In reference to Trentham, which we have already described; the author proceeds

" Alcoves ascend, from whence the gladden'd eye,
Rolls o'er the splendour of a western sky;
While roses scatter'd in delightful brakes,
Load the fresh breezes from surrounding lakes,
Their new-blown sweets retiring violets shed,
In velvet cloth'd, impurpling all the shade;
A sweet seclusion from meridian hours
Laburnum's offer, in their ample bow'rs;
Their pendant tresses, rich in nature's mould,
An artificial heaven of shining gold.
Where shall my eye for each bright object rove,
O Trentham*! thine the full description prove;
O'er the long hills, I catch thy stately woods,
And through the solemn gloom, thy dashing floods;
The shining surface of thy wat'ry plane,
And the far mansion—closing the grand scene;
Yet, when no more, you emulate the day,
In time's fierce tide, swept every charm away;
E'en the destroyer shall himself consume;
Still unimpair'd shall Stafford† virtues bloom."

As descriptive of other scenery, and of other mansions of our nobility, the author thus describes them.

" But see, enliven'd by the evening's gleam,
The scatter'd hamlets, and the glittering stream;
The lab'ring peasant, freed from day's long toil,
Bask in her glories, and enjoy her smile.
See air SANDON‡ elegantly neat,
And INGESTRIE§, far 'mongst her woods' retreat;
TIXALL|| majestic, though antique her style,
Gay BISHTON¶ on thy lucid waters smile;
Greenwood** enfolded in her oaks broad arms,
And Shugborough††, spreading her ten thousand charms."

In another portion of the poem, the author thus continues.

" Far mid the stream, stands Wolseley's shatter'd pride,††
In ruin'd grandeur braving still the tide;

* The seat of the Marquis of Stafford.

† The seat of Lord Harrowby.

|| The seat of the Hon. Thomas Clifford.

** The seat of Mrs. Ford.

† Referring to the bridge some years ago swept away, and to which we have already alluded.

† Lady Stafford.

§ The seat of Earl Talbot.

¶ The seat of J. Sparrow, Esq.

†† The seat of Thomas Anson, Esq.

PICTURESQUE VIEWS

While slowly sail around its ancient site,
 Trent's stately swans arrayed in virgin white.
 Nor yet forlorn ! sweet Wolseley, blest with these
 Blest with thy lovely hills, thou still shalt please :
 Thy far-stretch'd prospects, and thy flow'ry plain ;
 Soft swelling lawns, and mansion* still remain.
 With half her charms envelop'd in its maze,
 The waving foliage round Beaudesert† plays ;
 While Blythfield's‡ oaks in summer's pomp appear,
 Or spring returns—O Wolseley ! don't despair."

SOHO, STAFFORDSHIRE ;

(NEAR BIRMINGHAM.)

THE author and compiler of this work, having in his history of Warwickshire, given an account of Soho, from its contiguity to, and original assimilation of articles manufactured at this far-famed spot, Birmingham, feels an additional satisfaction, in presenting to his readers some further observations respecting this interesting place.

Soho has, at various periods since its commencement, not only improved in its machinery, but has also extended its mechanical and scientific operations from the manufacturing of the smaller articles of trinkets, to that of the improvement and manufacture of the most active of agents—the most ponderous and powerful steam engines.

More extraordinary effects have been produced by the steam engine at this place, than at any other part of the known world. In Mr. Pitts' topographical history of Staffordshire, published in 1817, he observes, in speaking of Soho and its vast concerns, &c., that, "the waste-lands called Handsworth-heath, which, about sixty years ago, was a barren waste, and rabbit-warren, is now a populous village or town. A beautiful garden, with pleasure grounds, and a piece of water, now covers one side of the heath ; several spacious square buildings, erected on the other side, contain workshops for six hundred people. The extensive pool gives motion to a large wa-

* The mansion of the Wolseley family.

† The seat of Lord Bagot.

‡ The seat of the Marquis of Anglesea.



ENGRAVED BY T. RADCLIFFE

50, 51, 52,

FROM THE NINEVEH ROAD

PUBLISHED BY W. EMANS, BROMSGROVE ST. BIRMINGHAM

J. LAURENCE

ter-wheel, and, by its means, to a great number of different tools; and the mechanical inventions here employed, are superior in number, variety, and utility, to those of any other manufactory in Europe.

When the projector first commenced business here, his productions were such as are usually made by the artists of Birmingham; namely, buttons, buckles, watch-chains and trinkets; but, with increasing prosperity, his plans of utility were extended, and the manufacture of plated wares on a large scale was, likewise, introduced; and, when these substantial and useful branches had been fully established, the proprietors began to bring forward works of elegance in stone, bronze, and or-molu. This new manufacture immediately received the sanction of His Majesty and the principal nobility, while the invention and activity of the manufacturer, kept pace with such distinguished patronage. Messrs. Boulton and Watt afterwards turned their attention to the manufacture of wrought plate, and, after a struggle, obtained the establishment of an office of Assay in Birmingham, for regulating the purity of the metal. Wrought plate is now a prominent article among the many rich productions of this great establishment, to the extension of which, the invention of the steam-engine has contributed in a very considerable degree. The celebrated Mr. Pratt, in giving an account of Soho, appropriately observes that "this far famed place owes its celebrity to a single individual whose whole life has been spent in one unremitting effort to advance the national character, and augment the national wealth, by extending manufactures and commerce, facilitating labour, and enlarging the sphere of human ingenuity. This scene of wonder was once a barren heath, on the bleak summit of which stood a naked hut, the habitation of a warrener. In 1762 when Mr. Boulton purchased a lease of the premises, there was only a small house and a feeble mill erected. In 1764, he laid the foundation of the present superb edifice, which was finished the next year, at the expense of £9,000. From the era of building this grand fabric, Mr. Boulton began to devote his attention to the different branches of manufacture; and, in conjunction with Mr. Fothergill, his then partner, established a mercantile correspondence throughout Europe. About the year 1779, that ingenious art of copying pictures in oil colours, by a mechanical process was invented at Soho, and brought to such perfection as to be taken for originals by the most experienced connoisseurs. This was chiefly conducted by the ingenious Mr. Egginton, which led him to that of painting upon glass* in a neighbouring manufactory.

Mr. Boulton, finding the stream of water insufficient, applied horses in conjunction with his water-mill; but, this proving troublesome, irregular, and expensive, in 1767, he made a steam engine on Savary's plan, with the intention of returning and raising the water twenty-five feet

* The author of this work in his History of Birmingham, has not only given a list, but a description of the great productions of that ingenious artist, Mr. Egginton, whose death was considered a national loss; other talented artists have, however, arisen in Birmingham in similar pursuits, and the productions of Mr. Pemberton, have been duly noticed and appreciated.—We have also recently seen some of a very beautiful and superior character, executed by Mr. Freeth of Birmingham, whose etchings and execution of landscapes in neutral tint, upon glass; possess an extraordinary degree of merit. Among his paintings upon glass, many will remain monuments of his taste in this, and the adjoining counties.

high. This being unsatisfactory, he soon after formed an acquaintance with Mr. James Watt, of Glasgow, who in 1765 had invented several valuable improvements in the steam engine. In 1775. Mr. Watt entered into partnership with Mr. Boulton, and they established a very extensive manufactory of steam engines at Soho, from whence most of the great mines and manufactories in England are supplied. Among the various applications of the steam engine, that of coining is very important, as by its powers all the operations are concentrated in one spot."

Another account of Soho, written subsequently to Mr. Pratt's states that, "the manufacture of metallic toys, by the late Mr. Boulton, in conjunction with his partner Mr. Fothergill, was the commencement of these extensive works. Plated ware, or Sheffield plate, including various useful and ornamental articles was next introduced. These were succeeded by a happy imitation of the French *Or-molu* ornaments, composed of vases, tripods, and other works, and by elegant and massive services of silver plate. The establishment of a manufactory of steam engines, when Mr. Watt, whose valuable improvement of that machine forms a remarkable era in its history, became a partner in the concern, extended the celebrity as well as the profits of the works at Soho. In all the productions of this manufactory, whether in the form of large and powerful apparatus, or in that of trinkets and ornaments of novelty, taste and ingenuity have been always conspicuous. The coining apparatus invented and constructed at Soho, is a singular example of ingenuity. The first coining mill was erected at this manufactory in 1783, and, after various improvements, eight machines going at the same time, are driven by one steam engine. Each machine strikes from seventy to eighty pieces, of the size of a guinea, in a minute, so that between thirty and forty thousand are worked off by the whole machines in one hour, all the processes are conducted by machinery as in copper coin, rolling the masses of copper into sheets, rolling them through cylindrical steel rollers, clipping the pieces of copper for the dies, shaking the coin in bags, striking both sides of the coin and then milling it. But one of the most ingenious contrivances of this machinery is, that a precise account of every piece coined is regularly kept, so that even the possibility of fraud is precluded."



W. & A. S. 1840

ENGRAVED BY A. S. 1840

BARR HALL,

SEAT OF SIR E. D. SCOTT, BART.

IN THE PARISH OF WILMANS BROMSGROVE S. BIRMINGHAM.

GREAT BARR HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE;

THE SEAT OF

SIR EDWARD SCOTT.

THIS ancient mansion, so long in the family of the Scotts', is said to be one of the finest and most delightful residences in this part of the country. It stands in the lap of a charming vale, embosomed within a beautiful lawn, surrounded by an abundant variety of trees, as well as being favoured with a fine sheet of water in front, and being backed by richly wooded hills, renders the effect remarkably fine. The rich foliage above casts an umbrageous shade on the intersected walks below, which Mr. Nightingale thus happily describes: "At different points as you ascend the hill, are placed rustic seats, each commanding enchanting but dissimilar views of the scenery below. One of them exhibits a truly Shenstonian prospect, the eye being directed down through the wild copse, upon the lake in the vale, whose extremity is concealed behind the richest scenes of aged oaks and verdant hills. Descending from these in a different direction towards the house, you pass the kitchen-garden, and shortly after enter the flower-garden, which is laid out with the most refined taste." At a little distance from the latter garden stands a beautiful urn, to the memory of Miss Mary Doleman, cousin to the celebrated Shenstone. The following elegant epitaph from the pen of the poet, is engraved on the pedestal:

"Ah Maria," puellarum elegantissima,
 Ah Flore, venustate abrepta : vale
 "Huc quanto minus est
 Cum reliquis versari quam tui meminisse."

This urn is composed of statuary marble, and fluted, with a medallion of Miss Dolman in the centre, and bears above the Shenstonian epitaph, the following words;

"Consobrinæ suæ Maria Dolman"

"Hanc Urnam"

"Posuerunt,"

"I. and M."

"S."

Leaving the urn, a gradually rising walk now presents itself, and leads to more elevated ground commanding an extensive prospect of the surrounding country. Approaching the house we be-

hold a very noble cascade, pouring its noisy waters into the large and beautiful lake which adorns the valley. Crossing the head of this lake, and proceeding along the range of hills which stretch themselves from hence, we reach High-wood and Barrbeacon. The latter of these summits claims particular attention. In the time of the Druids, we have already mentioned it to have been the points from which these priests gave notice to the people of their quarterly sacrifices. It afterwards, in the time of the Saxons, became a beacon to alarm the country during the invasion of the Danes, who likewise probably used it for similar purposes themselves.*

Of the agreeable village of Great Barr, fixed on the declivity of the lofty *Barrbeacon* which stretches itself out to a great extent, and seems like a great barrier to the country beyond it. The derivation of the name of this place is somewhat uncertain, being regarded by a few as coming from the word *Bara*, signifying a wild uncultivated field, and by others, from the term *Barah*, to eat, sacrifice, or purify.†

The chapel of Great Barr is adorned by a lofty spire, and is altogether an elegant edifice—it contains six musical bells, and the gallery is adorned with a handsome organ, and indeed the whole of the interior is fitted up with infinite taste. An exquisite painting on the glass of the east window executed by Mr. Egginton, is, as Mr. Nightingale truly remarks, not inferior in style and execution to many of the most approved productions of this art in more remote times, the late Mr. Egginton, who not only happily borrowed it from the Rev. William Peters' spirit of a child, but actually succeeded in improving the original design, chiefly by his having introduced some highly finished clouds, which finely relieve the splendid effect of the supernatural light. The graceful and highly flowing hair, together with the delicately beautiful and interesting faces of the two figures, are exquisitely delineated and softened by a gradation of tints, and simplicity of colouring, of which the ancient painters were wholly ignorant.

WALSALL

Is an ancient market town and borough, pleasantly situated on an eminence, contiguous to, and south of Rusball, and gradually rises from the eastern bank of the brook. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, twenty-four aldermen, a town clerk, two serjeants at mace, and a beadle: the commission of the peace is also vested in the senior alderman and late mayor, who award judgment in petty offences.

Walsall is distant about nine miles from Lichfield, and is considered a place of great antiquity, it does not, however, send any member to parliament. Mr. Nightingale remarks that, previous to the commencement of the late war, Walsall was a very thriving and flourishing town, consist-

* Shaw's History of Stafford vol. i. p. 105.

† Ibid, vol. ii. p. 102. Stukeley's Itin.

ing principally of twelve large and regular streets. Of late years, its industry, in common with that of the different towns engaged in the same species of trade, has suffered considerable depression. The general manufacture of the place, are articles connected with the saddlery and harness department.

In 1811, Walsall contained two thousand six hundred and eighty-six males, and two thousand eight hundred and fifty-five females. The market is held on Tuesday.

The parish of Walsall, is extensive, from including Bloxwich, Harden, Birch-hill, Walsall Wood, Windmill, Caldmore, and Limepit-tank. According to Dr. Plott, a curious practice prevails here. On the eve of Epiphany, a dole of one penny is regularly distributed to every person residing either in the borough, or in the villages belonging to it, without regard to whether they are fixed residents or not. This gift was bestowed, as is generally believed, by an inhabitant of the name of Moseley, who happened to hear a child cry for bread on this day, was so affected, that he vowed such an occurrence should never take place again; and, as the means of preventing it, immediately made over his manor of Bascot to the corporation, with the view of maintaining the dole.

Some affirm, however, that it originated in an endowment, which he bestowed on this church and the abbey of Hales Owen, in order to have prayers said for his own soul and that of his wife; and after the dissolution of religious houses, this endowment, or at least part of it, was converted to the maintenance of this yearly benevolence.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Matthew, stands on a bold eminence, from which the streets gradually descend on every side. The church, which formerly belonged to the abbey of Hales Owen, from a grant by William Rufus, and, as Mr. Pitt remarks, it is built in the form of a cross, but does not exhibit any traces of Saxon architecture. The interior is spacious, the roof lofty, and each side of the church has seven stalls, the seats of which are ornamented with a variety of grotesque figures carved in *basso relievo*, and under this part of the church, a Gothic archway forms a passage through the eastern division of the church-yard.

The neat paintings on glass, which formerly ornamented the window of this church, are now nearly obliterated, except the window of St. Catharine's chapel, containing mutilated figures of that saint; and St. Catharine's chapel has several vacant niches in its walls, which were doubtless intended for statues.

Exclusive of the church, there are several places of public worship for dissenters of various denominations, and the town has an excellent free grammar-school. Mr. Pitt remarks that limestone of excellent quality, is found in the hills near the town, to which a canal has been made, communicating with the lower level of the Birmingham canal, and iron mines opened on its banks. The Wyerly, and Essington canal also approaches within a short distance of Walsall.

Walsall, according to Capper, contained in 1821, two thousand three hundred and eighty-one houses, and eleven thousand nine hundred and fourteen inhabitants; viz. five thousand one hundred and thirty-six females; of whom one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine families are employed in trade and manufactures, chiefly in those of buckles, bridle-bits, and various articles of hardware. The quarter-sessions are held at stated periods; market on Tuesday; fairs, February twenty-first, Whit-Tuesday, and the Tuesday before Michaelmas-day, chiefly for cattle. It is a vicarage value £10. 19s. 7d.

DUDLEY CASTLE.

THIS noble rock-based castle is of great antiquity, and is a conspicuous object from the elevated situation upon which it is erected on a limestone hill, at about three miles south of Wednesbury, and is said to have been built by Dodo, or Duodo, a great and distinguished Saxon chief, about the year 760 and from whom it derived its name. It appears that formerly the sides of this limestone hill was so completely covered with trees, as to give it the appellation of the "Castle in the woods." The prospect from the castle is not only a beautiful, but most extensive one, commanding considerable portions of the counties of Worcester, Stafford, Derby, Warwick, Leicesters, Salop, and part of Wales. The hills of Malvern, Rowley, Clent, Abberley, the Cleys and the Wrekin, are, as Mr. Pitt justly remarks, noble features to the scene.

"Mountains on whose barren breast,
The labouring clouds do rest."

Seven English and two Welch counties, may be distinctly seen on a fine day, varied by numerous ridges of mountains, rich fertile vales and populous towns, with the spires of the different churches and various elegant habitations.

The buildings of the old castle encompassed an area of about an acre, surrounded by a strong wall flanked by towers. Mr. Nightingale states that, after the Norman conquest, it appears to have been bestowed upon William Fitz-Ansculph, who possessed no less than twenty-five manors in this county. During the contentions for the crown by King Stephen and the Empress Maud, this castle was fortified and maintained on the part of the latter, by Gervase Pagnel, whose son having joined in rebellion against Henry II., it was dismantled by the orders of that monarch. This second Pagnel, dying without male issue, this honour passed, by marriage to John de Somery. In the seventeenth year of Henry III. it was seized for the king's use, on account of Roger de Somery neglecting or refusing to appear in order to have the honour of knighthood conferred upon him. It was, however, soon after, returned, and we find that, about thirty years subsequent to this, the same Somery obtained a licence to fortify again. Male issue also failing in his family, it became the property of John Sutton, who married Margaret, one of the heirs general in the reign of Edward II. The Suttons were a respectable family in Nottinghamshire, and, in consequence of their owning this castle, one of them was called to the peerage by the title of Lord Dudley. In the reign of Henry VIII. it was purchased by John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, who lost it by rebellion in the time of Queen Mary: this nobleman is said to have made great repairs and additions to the buildings. After his death, the queen bestowed it on Sir Edward Sutton, son and heir of the Lord Dudley who had sold it to the duke. Anne, great grand-daughter of this gentleman, carried it, by marriage, to Humble Ward, who was created Baron Ward of Birmingham, in Warwickshire, on the third of March, 1643. During the civil wars which now began to distract England, this castle was twice besieged; first in 1644,



DUDLEY CASTLE.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

Engraved by W. Lister from S.







T. Wright del. Sculp.

DUDLEY CASTLE,
STAFFORDSHIRE

Engraved by W. H. Evans Birmingham

Printed at

when, after holding out for three weeks, it was relieved by a corps of the king's forces, from Worcester; and again in 1646, at which time it was surrendered to Sir William Brereton, commander of the parliamentary troops by colonel Leveson, governor for the king. Some affirm that this noble family continued to reside here for a considerable period after the restoration; but at length they deemed it expedient to abandon it, probably on account of the ruinous condition to which it had been reduced by the siege. Tradition says that it has since served as a retreat to a set of coiners, who having set fire to the buildings, were thereby discovered, and compelled to seek some other refuge, in which to carry on their iniquitous profession.

Mr. Pitt observes that in the valley are still the traces of an entrenchment thrown up against it in Cromwell's time, and several cannon-balls, some of them thirty-two pounders, have been found among the ruins. It was for several years after this inhabited by the lord's-keeper, the plantation kept in order, and the park within the walls well stocked with deer. It was in 1750 that the before mentioned coiners took refuge here, and who wilfully or accidentally destroyed the place by fire. It is now quite neglected, and forms a very picturesque ruin, and is still surrounded by shrubs and trees. A number of decayed buildings surrounding the court of this mansion are encompassed by a wall flanked with towers. The keep forms the most ancient portion of these buildings, the chapel, containing two noble Gothic windows, it appears ranks next in point of age, and about which period it is imagined the great and strong gateway with the apartment over it was erected; a vault called the prison is under the chapel; on the eastern division of the castle is the kitchen in which are two chimney pieces of enormous size; and, in the great hall formerly stood an oak table, one yard in breadth, and twenty-five in length: the principal portions of the castle is a ruin.

There are some extraordinary circumstances connected with the Dudley family, which we have stated in our (West's) history of Warwickshire, in reference to the Earls of Birmingham of whom, Edward the most unfortunate, Dugdale thus speaks.

“This *Edward* happened to be the last of the family that had to do here; for being contemporary with that ambitious man *John Dudley*, afterwards Viscount *L'Isle* (more commonly known by those greater titles which he some time had, viz. Earl of *Warwick*, and Duke of *Northumberland*) he was strangely wrested out of this lordship; for the said *John* having possessed himself of *Dudley Castle*, (as in *Warwick* I have shewed) and observing *Bermingham* a fit ornament for so noble a seat, but being the principal residence of such a family as had for some hundred of years enjoy'd it, not likely to be purchased from the then rightful owner, conspired by a wicked stratagem to work him out of it, which he soon put in practice: The story whereof is in substance thus, as by tradition from divers discreet persons I have heard, viz. that *Dudley* did set on some of his agents to lodge in *Bermingham*, and to learn when master *Bermingham* was to ride out from home; which being accordingly done, they so contrived their business, that one of their plot should ride leisurely before, so that they might soon, keeping but an ordinary pace, overtake him; whereupon they watcht an opportunity to strike into master *Bermingham's* company, as travellers, with whom they soberly rode for awhile, but being come up to their confederate, forthwith set upon him for his purse, so that the villain, thus seemingly rob'd makes pursuit after them, and likewise after master *Bermingham*, as one of the pack; who, being thereupon apprehended and prosecuted, apparently saw his danger. The business therefore now

working according to *Dudley's* first design, there were others employed to master *Bermingham* with overture how he might save his life, viz. to make the Viscount *L'Isle* his friend in giving up this lordship of *Bermingham* to him, which that it might bear the better colour, and be the more valid, was performed by yielding it to the king, and ratified by a speciall act of parliament, the tenor whereof was as followeth."

"Where *Edward Byrmingham late of Byrmingham, in the countie Warwick Esquire*, otherwise *Edward Byrmingham Esquire*, ys and standyth lawfully indebted to our sovereign lord kyng in diverse great summes of money; and also standyeth at the mercy of his highness for that the same *Edward*, ys at this present convicted of felony; our said sovereign lord the Kyng ys contentid and pleased, that for and in recompence and satisfaction to his grace of the seyde summes of money, to accept and take of the seyde *Edward*, the mannour and lordship of *Byrmingham*, otherwise called *Byrmincham*, with the appurtenances, lying and being in the countie of *Warwick*, and all and singular other lands and tenements, reversions, rents, services, and hereditaments of the same *Edward Byrmingham*, set lying and being in the countie of *Warwick aforesayde*. Be yt therefore ordeyned and enacted by the authority of this present parliament, that our said sovereign lorde the kyng, shall have hold and enjoy to him his heirs and assignes for ever, the seide mannour and lordship of *Byrmingham*, (&c.) in which act there is a reservation of £40. per An. to the said *Edward* and *Elizabeth* his wife, during their lives."

"Howbeit, after this it was no less than nine years ere the grant of it from the crown to the said Viscount *L'Isle* was made; for it bears not date till *December 21. 37 H. 8.* (perhaps on purpose so deferred, that the world might the less censure him for his hard dealing."

At the conclusion of our chronological account of the Earls of *Bermingham*, we have stated that in the year 1500, *Edward Bermingham*, succeeded his grandfather at the age of three, being born in 1497, and in his minority, *Edward Lord Dudley* was granted the wardship, by *Henry VII.* in 1502, the family estate then consisted of the manor of *Bermingham*, five others in the county of *Oxford*, one in *Bucks*, and one in *Worcester*, but after peaceable possession of this valuable property for nearly forty years, this ancient and illustrious family was visited and overwhelmed by the ambitious and base *John Dudley*, Duke of *Northumberland*, by whom this family were, as we have before stated, cruelly expelled. Forty pounds per annum only, were allowed by the act, which deprived the *Bermingham* family of their estate, and that only during the life of the last-mentioned *Edward* and his wife.

Mr. Hutton states, that "except that branch of the family which proceeded from this original stem, about 600 years ago, of which the Earl of *Lowth* is head, I know of no male descendant from this honourable stock; which, if we allow the founder to come over with *Cridda* the Saxon, in 582, must have commanded this sovereignty 955 years ago."

In 1537, *John, Duke of Northumberland*, undeservedly became Lord of the manor of *Bermingham*, but it did not prosper under his government, the people were clamorous; and although he exercised the ownership, he did not accept the grant until 1546, when those clamours had somewhat subsided. He kept possession six or seven years only, when through his ambition and artifices, he fell unlamented, and the manor of *Bermingham* again reverted to the crown.

After the extinction of the *Bermingham* family, the subsequent lords did not reside on the manor. This place gives title to the present Lord Viscount *Dudley and Ward*, who, by the fe-

male line, is descended from the Norman Barons, the Fitz-Auscults, the Paganalls, the Somerys, the Suttons; and the Dudleys."

According to Burke's peerage, John William Ward, F. R. S. Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward; in the county of Worcester; and Baron Ward of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick; recorder of Kidderminster; was born on the ninth of August, 1781; succeeded to the family honors, as fourth Viscount upon the demise of his father, twenty-fifth of April, 1823.

This family was advanced to the peerage, in consequence of the marriage of one of its members with the heiress of the Lords Dudley, temp. Charles I. The family of Ward is of great antiquity, and has been seated for many centuries, in the county of Norfolk. In the lineage of the family, Mr. Burke states that William Ward, sixth son of Edward Ward, Esq. of Bixley, in the county of Norfolk, was a wealthy goldsmith in London, and jeweller to the Queen of King Charles I. Having a very ample fortune, he resided at Heal in Staffordshire, and in his life time, Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley, bestowed Frances, his grand-daughter and heiress upon Humble Ward, Esq. the said William Ward's son and heir; which Frances upon the demise of her grand-father, Lord Dudley, in 1643, succeeded to that barony (created by writ of summons, twenty-fifth of February, 1342, sixteenth of Edward III.), and became FRANCES, BARONESS DUDLEY, when her husband, Humble Ward, above-mentioned, was first knighted, and subsequently twenty-third of March, 1644, elevated to the peerage, as HUMBLE BARON WARD, of Birmingham. His lordship died the fourth of October 1670, and was succeeded by his eldest son,—EDWARD, second Baron Ward, who, at the demise of his mother, in 1701, succeeded also to the barony of Dudley, as eleventh baron, and became Lord Dudley and Ward. His lordship died in a few months afterwards. He married Frances, daughter of Sir William Brereton, Bart., of Handford, in the county of Chester, and eventually sole heiress of her brother, Sir Thomas Brereton, by whom he had three sons and three daughters. The eldest and youngest sons died unmarried; the second son, William, married Frances, daughter of Thomas Dilke, Esq. of Maxtoke castle, in the county of Warwick, by whom, at his decease, in 1692, he left two sons and a daughter, the eldest of which sons—Edward, succeeded his grand-father, as twelfth Baron Dudley, and third Baron Ward. This nobleman married Diana, daughter of Thomas Howard, Esq. Ashted, Surrey; and dying in his minority, in 1704, was succeeded by his posthumous son,—Edward, thirteenth, and fourth baron, who died unmarried in 1731, when the family-honours reverted to his uncle;—William, fourteenth, and fifth baron; at whose decease, unmarried in 1740, the baronies separated.

The barony of Dudley revolved upon FERNANDO-DUDLEY LEA, son of William Lea, Esq. of Hales Owen Grange, in Shropshire, by Frances, only sister of the deceased lord. It fell, however, into abeyance, (as it continues) upon the demise of this nobleman, unmarried twenty-first of October, 1757, between his five sisters.

And the barony of Ward, descended to JOHN WARD, Esq. of Sedgley park, Staffordshire, great grandson of the first Lord Ward, through his third son, William Ward, Esq. of Willingworth, and eldest son of William Ward, Esq., M. P., for the county of Stafford, by Mary, daughter of the Honourable John Grey, of Enfield Hall, as sixth baron. His lordship was advanced to a Viscounty, by letters patent, dated the twenty-third of April, 1763, as VISCOUNT DUDLEY and WARD, of *Dudley*. He married twice, first Anna-Maria, daughter of Charles Bouchier,

Esq. of the city of Dublin, by whom he had one son,—JOHN, his successor; and secondly, Mary, daughter and heiress of John Carver, Esq., by whom he had two sons, the youngest of whom, William, only survived his lordship, who died in 1774, and was succeeded by his eldest son,—John, second Viscount, LL.D. who died without issue, in 1788, when the family honours devolved upon his half-brother,—WILLIAM, third Viscount, born the twenty-first of January, 1750, married, the twenty-first of August, 1780, Julia, second daughter of Godfrey Bosville, Esq. of Gunthwaite, Yorkshire, by whom he had an only son,—JOHN WILLIAM, the present peer. His lordship was distinguished by the purest and most munificent benevolence of character. He died the twenty-fifth of April, 1823.

MOTTO. *Comme je fus.*

THE POTTERIES.

IN giving a description of Staffordshire, whether picturesque or otherwise, the POTTERIES form so important and interesting a feature, as to claim the most marked attention—in fact, they are so picturesque within themselves, that the most favourite objects, that have been delineated by us in an adjoining county (Warwickshire) have been copied by the ingenious *artisans*, of the one we are about to describe;—but we trust that it will be borne in remembrance, that a vast sum is expended by the proprietor of this work, in paying an artist for travelling, and making original drawings of noblemen's and gentlemen's seats, and of the most picturesque objects of which this charming county can boast; that these original drawings, and engravings from them are protected by the laws of the realm—it is hoped that no improper use of them will be resorted to—no, we have too kind a feeling towards our liberal patrons to imagine that this will occur, and if it should, our appearance at the breakfast, dinner, and tea table of the first personages in the empire could not be considered as an ill, or an ungracious compliment bestowed upon us; but, as we have much to say upon this important and interesting district, from various authorities, which we intend to continue down to the most modern discoveries and improvements—we shall commence with Mr. Pitts' luminous illustrations of this opulent and interesting district of the county, lying to the north-east of Newcastle, and extending about nine or ten miles in length. The Potteries so called, are situated in the hundred of Pirchill, north, and include the towns and villages of Golden-hill, New-field, Smith-field, Tunstall, Langport, Burslem, Cobridge, Lower Lane, Lane Delf, and Lane-end. “Golden-hill is within the liberty of Oldcott, parish of Wolstanton, and is chiefly remarkable for its valuable mines of coal, and the fine and extreme prospects which it commands; these include nearly the whole county of Chester, and the Welch





J. W. G. 1840

VIEW OF THE FORTRESS

FROM FREDRIA SCHI
NEWCASTLE, ENGL.

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mountains in the back-ground, and the best general view of the Potteries, with the surrounding country." Newfield was partly formed out of the very extensive town-fields within the liberties of Tunstall, about the year 1613, though William Badley, became seized of a messuage, and certain quantities of land there, in the tenth of Edward VI. It is well situated for manufacturing purposes, having abundance of coal.

In passing over Smith-field, Tunstall, and Langport, we arrive at Burslem, of which, Mr. Pitt says "This extensive and populous town, which claims the honour of being the *Mother of the STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES*, stands on a rising ground, about three miles and a half, north north-east of Newcastle. It is a parish in Pircill north, and includes the townships of Hulton-abbey, and Sneyd. The manor of Burslem was in the possession of Robert de Stafford, at the time of the general survey. Henry de Audley was possessed of it in the time of Henry III., and it continued in the possession of his family to the end of the sixteenth century.* Burslem is undoubtedly the ancient seat of the Pottery, where earthenwares have been made many centuries, for Dr. Plott, who wrote in 1686, mentions the potteries of this place, as the greatest of the kind, and gives a very minute description of the process of making earthenware at that time.† We have devoted a separate article to the description of the various improvements made in this useful and elegant manufacture, since Dr. Plott's time. The vast increase of population, opulence and knowledge, in this district of the county, affords a sufficient demonstration of its general utility, and the numerous manufactories, the extensive warehouses, kilns, and beautiful mansions of the master potters, with the comfortable habitations of the thousands of industrious individuals, employed in this lucrative branch of trade, present a scene of animation truly interesting to the patriotic observer. We perfectly agree with Mr. Pitt, in this and every other respect, as well as with Mr. Nightingale, who described the town as being finely situated on a gentle eminence, to the north of Newcastle; and at the distance of one hundred and fifty-eight miles from London.

This town is the largest, and most populous of any in the district, containing, according to the parliamentary returns of 1801, a population of six thousand five hundred and seventy-eight persons; viz. three thousand two hundred and one males, and three thousand three hundred and seventy-seven females, of whom five thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, were returned as being engaged in different branches of trade and manufacture, and only two hundred and forty-three in agriculture. In 1821, Burslem contained one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine houses, and nine thousand six hundred and ninety-nine inhabitants, of whom one thousand five hundred and fifty-two families are returned as being employed in trade and manufactures, the greater part in the extensive potteries. The town of Burslem is conveniently situated near the Trent and Mersey canal, which about a mile from hence, passes by a tunnel under ground, the length of one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight yards. The church, dedicated to St. John, was formerly a chapel of ease to Stoke, and is one of the rectories formed out of that of Stoke by an act of parliament passed in 1816. It is a large modern structure with an ancient square tower. There are also several other places of worship for dissenters of various denominations, with an extensive sunday school and a library of religious publications attached to it. The

* Magna Britannia, No. 62, p. 78.

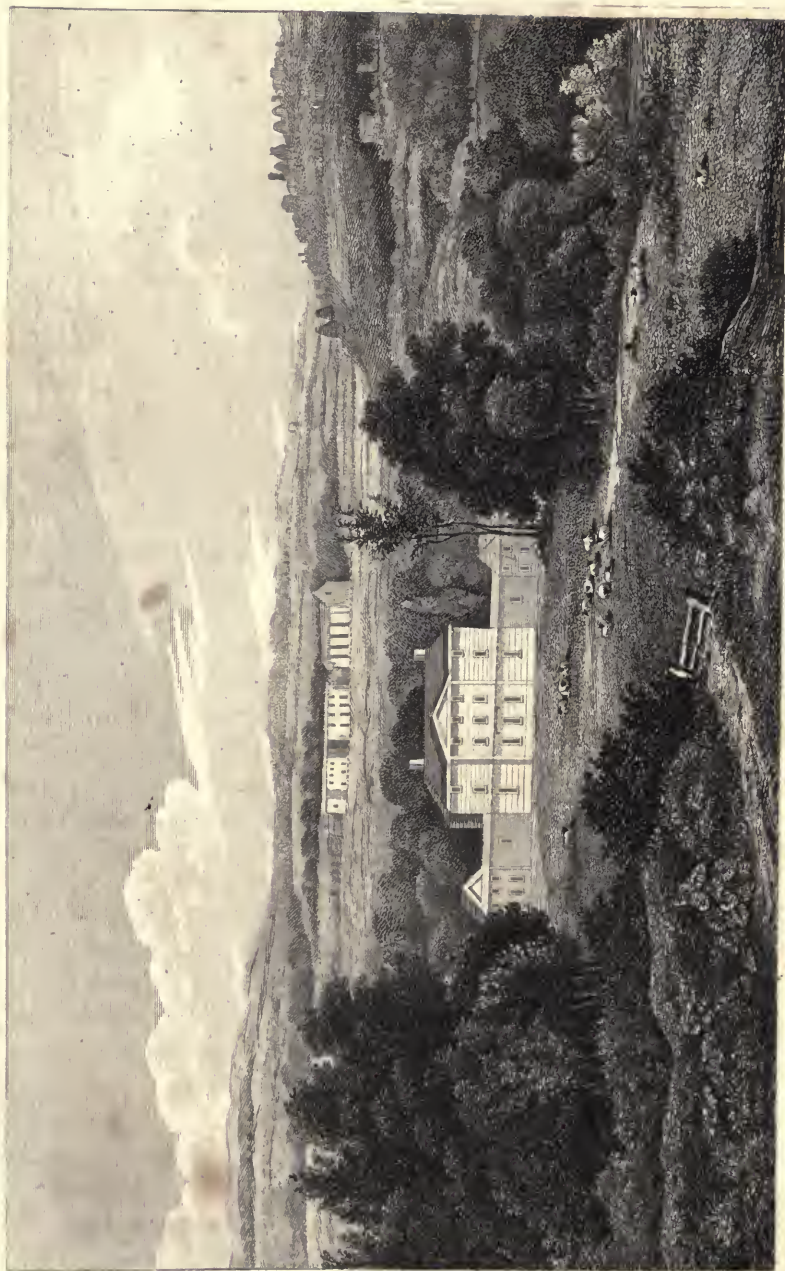
† Hist. of Stafford, chap. iii. p. 122.

market house is a very neat one; the market days are on Monday and Saturday. Fairs the twenty-second of March, the twenty-eighth of June, and the seventeenth of October. Mr. Pitt observes that "Burslem, is remarkable as being the place where the first clod of that great national undertaking, the Trent and Mersey canal, was cut by the late Josiah Wedgwood, Esq., and on the twenty-sixth of July, 1816, the fiftieth anniversary of this memorable event was celebrated by a public dinner, at which all the principal manufacturers of Burslem were present. Enoch Wood, Esq. presided upon the occasion, and, after a well merited eulogium upon the late venerable father of the Potteries (a native of Burslem), and the inventive genius of Brindley, he exhibited various ancient specimens of earthenware, descriptive of the progressive state of the manufacture during the last one hundred and fifty years, which he divided into epochs of fifty years, from the butter-pot mentioned by Plott, down to the time at which the excellent specimens of queen's or cream-coloured ware, jasper, &c. left by Mr. Wedgwood were produced." Since Mr. Wedgwood's day a vast variety of new and beautiful articles have been produced, and the new durable and excellent article of *Stone China*, which has been manufactured by the Spodes, Masons, &c. are not only a proof of the great perfection to which this manufacture is brought, but the embossing, paintings, &c. which ornamented them, may be said to vie with those manufactured in China; and this manufactory is, perhaps superior to any similar one in Europe. Mr. Pitt goes on to state that, "It has been often asked why the potters fixed themselves here; or the potteries of this county continued to flourish more than those of any other part of the kingdom, or perhaps of the whole world!—the answer (says Mr. Pitt) to this question appears tolerably obvious—the abundant and almost inexhaustible supply of clay and coal upon the spot, the inland situation of this district, which contributed to render labour cheap, and other circumstances combined to fix and establish this important branch of commerce, where it had been so successfully commenced."

Of the material, Dr. Aikin in his history of Manchester, remarks that "the measures of strata, by which the beds of coal are divided, consists, most commonly of clays of different kinds, some of which make most excellent fire bricks; for building the potter's kilns, and *saggars* (a corruption of the German *schrägers*;) which signifies cases or supporters in which the ware is burnt." Finer clays, of various colours and textures, are likewise plentiful in many places, most of them near the surface of the earth; and of these the bodies of the wares themselves were formerly manufactured.

The coals being then also got near the surface, were plentiful and cheap. In the time of Plott they were as low as two pence the horse-load, which, at eight horse-loads to a ton (the usual estimation), amounts to only sixteen pence the ton. In 1795, the price of coals was from four to five shillings per ton at the works. Since that time a regular advance has taken place.—"When (continues Mr. Pitt) they first began to get the coals here, it was done by removing the soil and clay which covered them; they were afterwards got in open pits, which however soon filled with water. Recourse was then had to draining, by laying soughs or gutters from the lowest part of the land near them, by which means the coals were procured for many years in this neighbourhood, until the upper parts or heads of the mine were generally exhausted, and the coals became scarce. In the year 1719, Lord Macclesfield, who owned an estate of about one hundred and fifty acres, full of coals, adjoining the town of Burslem, entered into an agreement





DRAWN BY F. CALVERT

ENGRAVED BY J. TYE

ETRURIA HALL,
SEAT OF JOSIAH WEDGEWOOD ESQ.^R

PUBLISHED BY W. EMANS, BROMSGROVE ST. BIRMINGHAM

with the owners of the low meadow lands near the church, for permission to cut a sough or gutter from thence up to his lands, for the purpose of draining his mines. The completion of this gutter furnished an abundant supply for upwards of sixty years, but the coal that lay above this gutter or drain, at length became exhausted and rendered the article scarce and dear. The proprietors of the coal lands then introduced horse-gins, and steam engines followed shortly afterwards. The deepest engine pit in 1815, was one hundred and eleven yards; the coals here range from north to south the whole length of the potteries, (say about nine or ten miles on the east of Burslem,) and generally dip from east to west about one foot perpendicular in every four feet in length down the dip. Towards Mole Cop, which is four or five miles north of Burslem, the coals suddenly return along Harecastle Hill, having a greater dip, and range nearly from north to south for the length of four or five miles, to the neighbourhood of Red Street, and dip south-east, from whence they again range north and south in the direction of Silver Dale, a distance of four or five miles, dipping towards the east, and heading out to the surface of the earth towards the west. It has been clearly ascertained that there are thirty-two different mines of coals, between Burslem and the Ridge of Hills a little to the east of Norton Church, of various thicknesses, generally from about three to ten feet each, lying in the order of stratum, super-stratum, &c. a list of which Mr. Pitt enumerates, and concludes his account of Burslem by stating that in 1653, the number of houses and population was so small, that in the register of an adjoining parish, it was then termed *parochiella*, "the little parish."

There is another place that was formerly of trifling import, but now forms a considerable village or rather regularly built street, we mean *Etruria*; it is chiefly inhabited by potters, and is situated on the side of the canal about a mile north-east of Newcastle. This place has for many years been celebrated as the source from which the productions of the talented Josiah Wedgewood have been issued from one vast manufactory, contiguous to which, upon an eminence, amidst handsome plantations stands the family residence. The late Mr. Wedgewood had these extensive concerns erected and named after *Etruria* in Italy, anciently celebrated for the exquisite quality and classical models in earthenware and which so eminently served to improve the taste of the English manufacturer. The late Josiah Wedgewood has been much noticed for the accuracy and beauty with which he executed many of the medals, busts, and statues of antiquity; he was actively concerned in opposing the twenty commercial propositions with Ireland in 1783, and in supporting the commercial treaty with France of the following year; he also published a pamphlet, entitled, "Address to the Workmen in the Pottery," and was many years concerned in two or three prolix newspaper controversies.

The following account is given of him in the Gentleman's Magazine for February, 1795.

"Died, at *Etruria*, in Staffordshire, aged 64, JOSIAH WEDGEWOOD Esq. F.R. and A.S.S. to whose indefatigable labours is owing the establishment of a manufacture that has opened a new scene of extensive commerce, unknown before to this or any other country. It is unnecessary to say that this alludes to the pottery of Staffordshire, which by the united efforts of Mr. Wedgewood, and his late partner Mr. Bentley, has been carried to a degree of perfection, both in the line of utility and ornament, that leaves all work, ancient or modern, far behind.

"Mr. Wedgewood was the younger son of a potter, but derived little or no property from his father, whose possessions consisted chiefly of a small entailed estate, which descended to the

eldest son. He was the master of his own fortune, and his country has been benefited in a proportion not to be calculated; his many discoveries of new species of earthenwares and porcelains, his studied forms of chaste style of decoration, and the correctness and judgment with which all his works are executed under his own eye, and by artists, for the most part of his own forming, having turned the current in this branch of commerce; for, before his time, England imported the finer earthenwares, but for more than twenty years past, he has exported them to a great annual amount, the whole of which is drawn from the earth, and from the industry of the inhabitants, while the national taste has been improved, and its reputation raised in foreign countries. His inventions have prodigiously increased the number of persons employed in the potteries, and in the traffic and transport of its materials from distant parts of the kingdom; and this class of manufacturers is also indebted to him for much mechanical contrivance and arrangement in their operations, his private manufactory having had for thirty years and upwards, all the efficacy of a public work of experiment. Neither was he unknown in the walks of philosophy; his communications to the Royal Society shew a mind enlightened by science, and contributed to procure him the esteem of scientific men at home, and throughout Europe. His invention of a Thermometer for measuring the higher degrees of heat employed in their various arts, is of the highest importance to their promotion, and will add celebrity to his name. At an early period of his life, seeing the impossibility of extending considerably the manufactory he was engaged in on the spot which gave him birth, without the advantages of inland navigation, he was the proposer of the Grand Trunk Canal, and the chief agent in obtaining the act of parliament for making it, against the prejudices of the landed interests, which at that time stood very high, and but just before had been with great difficulty overcome in another quarter by all the powerful influence of a noble duke, whose canal at that time was but lately finished. Having acquired a large fortune, his purse was always open to the calls of charity, and to the support of every institution for the public good. To his relations, friends, and neighbours, he was endeared by many private virtues; and his loss will be deeply and long deplored by all who had the pleasure of knowing him intimately, and by the numerous objects to whom his benevolence was extended; and he will be regretted by his country, as the able and zealous supporter of her commerce, and by the steady patron of every valuable interest of society."

We shall probably have to resume the subject of some of the chaste and inimitable productions of the great and enterprising character above alluded to.

In continuation of our description of this truly interesting place, and of its manufactures, it is not our intention to retrace our steps to their origin, or their earlier improvements, than to those which have been indebted to the genius, taste, and talent of the late Mr. Josiah Wedgwood, for, as Mr. Nightingale truly observes, "the introduction of a foreign manufacture, so much superior to our own, must have had very bad effects on the potteries of this kingdom, if a new one, still more to the public taste, had not happily superceded the necessity of importing an article from France, which poured into the English market about the middle of the last century; but, (observes Mr. N.) in the year 1763, Mr. Josiah Wedgwood, who had already introduced several improvements in this art, as well with respect to the forms and colours of the wares, as the composition of which they were made, invented a species of earthenware, for the table, of a firm and durable body, and covered with a rich and brilliant glaze, and bearing sudden vicissi-

tudes of heat and cold without injury. It was accompanied also with the advantages of being manufactured with ease and expedition, was sold cheap, and as it possessed, with the novelty of its appearance, every requisite quality for the purposes intended, it came quickly into general estimation and use. To this manufacture Queen Charlotte was pleased to give her name and patronage, commanding it to be called *QUEEN'S WARE*, and honouring the inventor by appointing him her majesty's potter. It was composed of the whitest clays from Derbyshire, Dorsetshire, and other places, mixed with a due proportion of ground flint. The pieces are fired twice, and the glaze applied after the first firing, in the same manner as porcelain. The glaze is a vitreous composition of flint and other white earthy bodies, with additions of white lead for the flux, analogous to common flint glass. This compound being mixed with water to a proper consistence, the pieces, after the first firing, are separately dipped in it: being somewhat bibulous, they drink in a quantity of the mere water, and the glaze, which was united to that portion of the water, remains adherent uniformly all over their surface, so as to become, by the second firing, a coat of perfect glass. To Mr. Wedgwood's continued experiments, we are indebted for several other pieces of earthenware and porcelain, adapted to various purposes of ornament and use. The principal are the following,

1. *A TERRA COTTA*, resembling porphyry, granite, Egyptian pebble, and other beautiful stones of the siliceous or chrystalline order.

2. *BASALTES* or black ware; a black porcelain biscuit of nearly the same properties with the natural stone; striking fire with steel, receiving a high polish, serving as a touchstone for metals; resisting all acids, and bearing, without injury, a strong fire, stronger indeed than the *basaltes* itself.

3. *WHITE PORCELAIN BISCUIT*, of a smooth wax-like surface, of the same properties with the preceding, except in what depends upon colour.

4. *JASPER*; a white porcelain biscuit of exquisite beauty and delicacy, possessing the general qualities of the *basaltes*, together with the singular one of receiving through its whole substance from the mixture of metallic calces with the other materials, the same colours which those calces communicate to glass or enamels in fusion, a property which no other porcelain or earthenware body, of ancient or modern composition has been found to possess. This renders it peculiarly fit for making cameos, portraits, and all subjects in *basso-relievo*, as the ground may be of any particular colour, while the raised figures are of pure white.

5. *BAMBOO*, or cane coloured biscuit porcelain. This possesses the same properties as the *white porcelain biscuit*, mentioned above.

6. *A PORCELAIN BISCUIT*, remarkable for great *hardness*, little inferior to that of agate. This property, together with its resistance to the strongest acids and corrosives, and its impenetrability by every known liquid, adapts it for mortars, and many different kinds of chemical vessels.

These six distinct species, with the *queen's ware*, already mentioned, expanded by the industry and ingenuity of the different manufacturers, into an infinity of forms, variously painted and embellished, constituted but a few years since, the whole of the fine English earthenwares and porcelain, which have now become the source of a very extensive trade, and which, considered as an object of national art, industry, and commerce, may be ranked among the most im-

portant manufactures of the united kingdom.* Subsequently to Mr. Wedgewood's day, the durable and newly improved stone china, manufactured by Messrs. Spode and Co., and by Messrs. Minton, Ridgeway, and others, has been admired, and greatly in request.

The following description of the process used in manufacturing the earthenware, was communicated to Dr. Aiken of Manchester by a person on the spot. The practice has varied but in a trifling manner since that time. A piece of prepared mixture of clay and ground flint, dried and prepared to a proper consistence, is taken to be formed into any required shape and fashion, by a man who sits over a machine called a wheel, on the going round of which he continues forming the ware. This branch is called *throwing*; and as the water is required to prevent the clay sticking to the hand, it is necessary for a short time to place it in a warm situation. It then undergoes the operation of being turned, and is made much smoother than it was before, by a person called a turner; when it is ready for the handle and spout to be joined to it, by the branch called *handling*. Dishes, plates, tureens, and many other articles, are made from moulds of ground plaister; and, when finished, the whole are placed carefully (being then in a much more brittle state than when fired) in saggars, which, in shape and form, pretty much resemble a lady's band-box, without its cover, but much thicker, and are made from marle or clay of this neighbourhood. The larger ovens or kilns, are placed full of saggars, so filled with ware; and after a fire, which consumes from twelve to fifteen tons of coal, when the oven is become cool again, the saggars are taken out, and their contents removed, often exceeding thirty thousand various pieces; but this depends upon the general sizes of the ware. In this state the ware is called *biscuit*, and the body of it has much the appearance of a new tobacco pipe, not having the least gloss upon it. It is then immersed or dipped into a fluid generally consisting of sixty pounds of white lead, ten pounds of ground flint, and twenty pounds of stone from Cornwall, burned and ground, all mixed together, and as much water put to it as reduces it to the thickness of cream, which it resembles. Each piece of ware being separately immersed or dipped into this fluid, so much adheres all over the piece, that, when put into other saggars, and exposed to another operation of fire, performed in the glossing kiln or oven, the ware becomes finished by its glossy covering, which is given it by the vitrification of the above ingredients. Enamelled ware undergoes a third fire after its being painted, in order to bind the colour on.

A single piece of ware, such as a common enamelled tea-pot, mug, jug, &c., passes through at least fourteen different hands, before it is finished: *viz.* the slipmaker, who makes the clay; the temperer or beater of the clay; the thrower who forms the ware; the ball-maker and currier; the attender upon the drying of it; the turner, who does away its roughness; the spout maker; the handler, who puts on the handle and the spout; the first, or biscuit fireman; the person who immerses or dips it into the lead fluid; the second, or glass fireman; the dresser, or sorter in the warehouse; the enameller, or painter; the muffle, or enamel fireman. Several more are required to the completion of such pieces of ware, but are in inferior capacities, such as turners of the wheel, turners of the lathe, &c. &c.† Mr. Nightingale says that "the evidence given by Mr. Wedgewood to the committee of privy council, and at the bar of the two

* Nightingale's Hist. of Stafford.

† Aiken's Manchester, p. 534, 535.

houses of parliament, when a commercial arrangement with Ireland was in agitation in 1785, will give some idea of the then extent of this manufacture, and its value to our maritime and landed, as well as commercial interests. And the evidence of the present Mr. Wedgewood to the committee of the house of commons, at that period on the celebrated orders of council, will shew the state of this branch of manufacture as a branch of commerce. The late Mr. Wedgewood, in the evidence just alluded to, was of opinion, that through the manufacturing part alone in the potteries and their vicinity, they gave bread to fifteen or twenty thousand people, including the wives and children of those who were employed in it, yet that this was a small object when compared to the many others which depend upon it: *viz.* 1. The immense quantity of inland carriage it creates throughout the kingdom, both for its raw materials and finished goods. 2. The great number of people employed in the extensive collieries for its use. 3. The still greater number employed in raising and preparing its raw materials, in several distant parts of England, from near the Lands-end in Cornwall one way, along different parts of the coast, to Falmouth, Teignmouth, Exeter, Pool, Gravesend and the Norfolk coast, the other way to Biddeford, Wales, and the Irish coast. 4. The coasting vessels, which, after being employed at the proper season, in the Newfoundland fishery, carry these materials coast-wise to Liverpool and Hull, to the amount of twenty thousand tons yearly, at times when they would otherwise be laid up idle in harbour. 5. The further conveyance of them from these ports, by river, and canal navigation, to the potteries, situated at one of the most inland parts of this kingdom; and, 6. The re-conveyance of the finished goods to the different parts of this island, whence they are shipped for every foreign market that is open to the earthenwares of England. Mr. Wedgewood further observed that this manufacture is attended with some advantageous circumstances, almost peculiar to itself; *viz.* that the value of the manufactured goods consist almost wholly in labour, that one ton of raw material furnishes several tons of finished goods for shipping, the freight being then charged, not by the weight but by the bulk; that scarcely a vessel leaves any of our ports, without more or less of these cheap, bulky, and, therefore, valuable articles to this maritime country; and, above all, that not less than five parts in six of the whole produce of the potteries, are exported to foreign markets. Notwithstanding all these advantages, Mr. Wedgewood in his evidence to the house of commons, declared himself strongly impressed with the idea that this manufacture was then but in its infancy, compared with what it might arrive at, if not interrupted in its growth. He died at his beautiful village of Etruria, aged sixty-four. The business of the pottery, was subsequently conducted by his son, Josiah Wedgewood, Esq.

The improvements in earthenware to this day, rest in the family of the Wedgewoods, although the modern improvements are so great, that it would be impossible to enumerate them. Such a man, and such a family, are an honour to a country; under the very first and highest of circles, no similar benefits, can be produced.

WEST BROMWICH.

PERHAPS no spot in Staffordshire, can create a greater degree of surprise, than the rapid advance and improvement, that has taken place here, and which by Mr. Pitt and others is properly termed a village, situated to the south-east of Wednesbury, on a gravelly hill; another topographer remarks that it lies to the west of Handsworth, and is chiefly remarkable as containing *Sandwell Park*, the seat of the earl of Dartmouth; of which we shall have to speak hereafter, but Mr. Pitt observes that the road to Birmingham passes through the *village*, and the population of West Bromwich has rapidly increased in consequence of the various manufactures in iron, particularly locks, gun-locks, and nails. In 1811, the number of inhabitants was seven thousand four hundred and eighty-five; viz. three thousand seven hundred and seventy-three males, and three thousand seven hundred and twelve females. A large street in this parish called Hill-top, contains several good houses; and here is a villa belonging to Mr. Elwal, and a good inn on the Dudley road, called the Swan inn! Only taking this period and of Mr. Nightingale's history of Staffordshire in 1813, wherein he correctly states, that "the church, an ancient building surmounted by a tower, has of late years been repaired, and much enlarged interiorly, the side ailes being thrown into the body, so as to present one entire space. Neither its architectural features nor its monuments claim the slightest attention. What an extraordinary change has taken place since not only that period, but also of Mr. Pitt's work in 1817. West Bromwich may now (1830) vie with the outlet of almost any large town in England, its new, beautiful, airy, lantern like church is a credit to the architect who constructed the edifice, and to the place. The number of new and handsome villas, and the general buildings of West Bromwich really surprised us, and having given a statement of its population, &c. in 1811, let us now turn over to 1821, when it will be found as nearly double, for in Capper it will be found described as "a parish in Offlow hundred, two miles S.S.E. of Wednesbury, and one hundred and twenty-two from London, containing one thousand seven hundred and ninety houses, and nine thousand five hundred and three inhabitants, of whom one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three are employed in trade. It is a curacy, patron the earl of Dartmouth.

Mr. Pitt states that "Dr. Plott mentions an excellent sand for the manufacture of glass found near West Bromwich. The learned doctor, whose propensity to the marvellous is remarkable, gives an account of Walter Parsons, who was born at West Bromwich, and was a man of gigantic stature and extraordinary strength. In his youth he was bound an apprentice to a smith, and was so tall that they were obliged to dig a hole in the ground, for him to stand in up to his knees when he struck the anvil," he was afterwards employed as porter to James I. and was courageous in proportion to his strength, but so good natured that he scorned to take any advantage of it; on being offended by a man of ordinary stature as he walked London streets, he only took him up and hung him by the waistband of his breeches, upon a hook for the amuse-



ENGRAVED BY T. MACCARTHY

SANDWELL HALL,

SEAT OF THE RIGHT HON. the EARL OF DARTMOUTH.

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ment of the passengers. He would sometimes by way of merriment, take up two of the tallest yeomen of the guard, and carry them about the guard chamber in spite of their resistance." Such is the tale of Dr. Plott: this, however, serves to remind us of the great strength of Milan the original and celebrated military bookseller of Whitehall, London, who, upon being insulted by a scavenger in the metropolis, with great ease took him up and threw him into his own dust-cart.

SANDWELL PARK.

SITUATE in a delightful and romantic valley to the west of Handsworth near Birmingham, contains the beautiful and noble mansion of the earl of Dartmouth, and is said to have taken its name from *Sancta Fons*, or the Holy Well, although from the nature of the place and of the soil, as already described, it would imply its full definition.

Be this as it may, it is described as being "built on the site of a priory of Benedictine monks, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen; some vestiges of the original foundation being still visible to the observant eye, in the rear of the house, and among the offices, a stone coffin was dug up a few years ago. At the time of the dissolution of monasteries, in the reign of Henry VIII. it was given to Cardinal Wolsey. The estate afterwards came into the possession of the present family of Legge;" of whom Mr. Burke gives the following account, William Legge, Earl and Baron of Dartmouth, Viscount Lewsham, was born November twenty-ninth, 1784, succeeded to the family honors of his father, November the second, 1810, married in 1821, Charlotte Frances, daughter of Charles Chetwynd, second Earl Talbot, (who died in October, 1823) by whom he has issue, William Walter, Viscount Lewsham, born on the twelfth of August, 1823: His lordship is the fourth earl. The founder of this noble family was Alderman Thomas Legge, of the city of London, who served the office of sheriff in 1343, and was lord mayor in the years 1346 and 1353. In 1338 he lent Edward III. £300. towards carrying on the war with France, which was a very considerable sum in those days, and more than any other citizen advanced, except the lord mayor, and Simon de Francis, who lent each £800. in the ensuing year. From this opulent citizen, lineally descended Colonel William Legge, celebrated for his persevering and faithful attachment to Charles I., and his never ceasing endeavours for the restoration of the monarchy. At the battle of Worcester he was wounded and taken prisoner, and had certainly been executed, if his wife had not contrived his escape from Coventry gaol in her own clothes. He was high in favour after the restoration, and enjoyed several lucrative and honourable offices. He died in 1672, and was succeeded by his eldest son, George Legge, who was created *Baron of Dartmouth*, on the second of December, 1682. His lordship died in 1691,

and was succeeded by his only son, William, second baron, who was secretary of state, in 1710, and, on the fifth of September, 1711, was advanced to a viscounty and earldom, as *Viscount Lewsham*, and *EARL OF DARTMOUTH*. His lordship married in 1700, Anne, daughter of Heneage, Earl of Aylesford, by whom he had six sons and two daughters.

The eldest of them, George, Viscount Lewsham, married Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of Sir Arthur Kaye, Bart. of Woodsome, in the county of York, by whom he left a son and two daughters. His lordship died in 1732, in the life time of his father. The earl died on the fifteenth of December, 1750, and was succeeded by his grandson—William, second earl, who married in 1755, Frances Catherine, only daughter and heiress of Sir Charles Gunter Nicholl, K. B. His lordship died in 1801, and was succeeded by his eldest son—George, third earl, who was called up by writ to the house of lords, as *Baron Dartmouth*, during the life time of his father. His lordship married, on the twenty-fourth of September, 1782, Frances, ninth daughter of Heneage, third earl of Aylesford, by whom he had issue,

WILLIAM, present earl.

Heneage, born the twenty-ninth of February, 1788.

Arthur Charles, born the twenty-fifth of July, 1800, M. P. for Banbury.

Louisa, married in 1807, to William, Lord Bagot; and died in 1826.

Charlotte, married in 1816, to the Hon. and Rev. George Neville Granville, master of Magdalen College, Cambridge.

Harriet, married in 1812, to Lieutenant general Sir Edward Paget.

Barbara Maria, married, in 1820, to F. Newdigate, Esq.

Georgiana Caroline.

Mary.

Anne.

The earl died in 1820.

Creations.—Baron, the second of December, 1682, and earl the fifth of September, 1711.

Motto.—*Gaudet tentamine virtus*.

Sandwell mansion has already been described as being formed of “brick, stuccoed white, and forming a square; and in the extensive lawn in front, is the holy-well, enclosed by iron rails;” and it is further stated that “Sandwell, though situated in a populous neighbourhood, only four miles from Birmingham, and close to the turnpike road from that town to Wolverhampton, is enclosed, by a high park-wall, and a thick plantation of trees, so effectually, as to be totally secluded from the busy world.” The elegant mansion, besides every accommodation for convenience, contains a handsome library, and a neat chapel; the principal rooms are adorned with landscapes and portraits by the best masters, particularly Kneller, Houseman, Gaspar, Vivian, Highmore, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Jansen, Richardson, and Vandyke. A variety of picturesque prospects are to be seen from different points of view in the park, which is well stocked with deer, and situated in a vale of several thousand acres, finely wooded with noble oaks, and other trees; and also backed with fine woods and extensive lakes, which may be seen peeping through the trees; and over the woods to the south, a fine view of West Bromwich church, presents itself. Beautiful and enchanting as this seat is, it has been intimated that its noble owner intends to erect a new mansion on a more elevated site.

BEAUDESERT.

THIS magnificent mansion, embosomed in beautiful rising grounds, and almost enveloped with luxuriant trees, is situate about one mile from Langdon, and five miles north of Lichfield. It has for centuries been the mansion of the Paget family, and was partly rebuilt and enlarged by Thomas, Lord Paget, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but many portions of it are of a much earlier period, and the principal drawing room (of nearly fifty feet in length) now contains one of Holbein's most masterly productions in the portrait of the first Lord Paget, who was ennobled by Edward VI. Fuller in his *worthies*, in the language of a foreign potentate, says of this Lord Paget, that, "he was not only fit to represent kings, but to be a king himself."

This superb stone building exhibits a handsome light portico'd front, under which is a grand entrance into a spacious hall, the lofty arched ceiling and painted window at the east end, produces a charming effect.

This delightful residence, erected on the acclivity of an eminence, sheltering it from severe winds, displays the place of a former encampment termed Castle Hill, from whence it is stated that a delightful prospect may be seen of nine different counties. Mr. Pitt describes Beaudesert as formerly the palace of the bishop of Chester, situated on the side of a lofty eminence in an advanced part of the forest of Cannock, about a mile south-west from Langdon church: the mansion is a magnificent edifice of stone, built in the form of a half H; it is sheltered in the rear by fine rising grounds, adorned with a variety of trees, and enveloped in groves of the most luxuriant growth. The greatest part of it was built by Thomas, Lord Paget, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and various additions have been since made by his successors. The principal entrance is under a light gothic portico, which leads into a large and handsome hall eighty feet by twenty-one with a lofty arched ceiling, a large music gallery at the east end, and a beautiful gothic window at the west end, and adorned with the arms of the first Sir William Paget, and Preston, whose daughter he married. On a pillar in a corner of the hall, is fixed a piece of copper ore of a conical shape, from the Anglesea mine, upwards of twelve hundred pounds weight. The library contains a valuable collection of books and MSS. and among others the register of Burton Abbey. Among the modern improvements belonging to this mansion, the stables and coach houses are most worthy of observation; they are built of beautiful white stone in the form of a crescent, and situated at a convenient distance from the mansion in a romantic valley; beyond these buildings, the extensive gardens display all the beauties of Horticulture; both the soil and situation are well adapted to the production of the most valuable herbs, roots, fruits and flowers, and the walks and pleasure grounds around the house present that charming variety of scenes to the rambler's eye, which are so grateful to the imagination: the park, where herds of deer ramble at will, contains an extensive succession of hills and vallies, abounding with excellent springs, and reminds the observer of the magnificent and picturesque scenery of Reedwood Forest.

Of the rank, titles, and lineage of this noble family, Mr. Burke gives the following perspicuous account: Henry William Paget, Marquess of Anglesey, Earl of Uxbridge, in the county of Middlesex, and Baron Paget, of Beaudesert, in the county of Stafford; a Baronet of Ireland, Master General of the Ordnance, Constable of the Tower, Lord Lieutenant, and custos rotolorum of the county of Anglesey, constable of the castle and mayor of the borough of Caernarvon, ranger of Snowden forest, vice admiral of North Wales, and county of Caermarthen, K. G. and G. C. B. grand cross of the royal Guelphic order, general in the army, and colonel of the seventh hussars; born the 17th of May 1768, succeeded to the earldom and inferior titles upon the demise of his father, Henry, Earl of Uxbridge, on the 13th of March 1812, and was created MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY, 23rd of June, 1815, married first, 25th of July, 1795, Caroline Elizabeth, daughter of George, fourth Earl of Jersey. Her ladyship having obtained a dissolution of her marriage according to the laws of Scotland, and espoused the duke of Argyle, the Marquess of Anglesey married secondly, the lady Charlotte Cadogan, daughter of Charles, Earl of Cadogan. His lordship had issue by both marriages.

HENRY, EARL OF UXBRIDGE, born July 6th 1797, married in 1819, Elizabeth, second daughter of the late John Campbell, Esq. of Shawfield, and niece of the present duke of Argyle.

WILLIAM.

Clarence,	}	By first marriage.
Alfred,		
George.		

Caroline, married to Charles, present Duke of Richmond.

Jane, married to Francis, Earl of Mount Charles.

Georgiana.

Augusta married to Arthur Chichester, Esq.

Agnes.

Emily,	}	By second marriage.
Mary,		
Adelaide.		

The Marquess of Anglesey is the second earl and first marquess.

LINEAGE.

In the fourth year of the reign of Edward VI. 19th of January, 1550, Sir William Paget, K. G. an eminent statesman in that and the preceding reign, son of William Paget, one of the serjeants at mace, of the city of London, was elevated to the peerage by summons, under the style and title of *Baron Paget, of Beaudesert, in the county of Stafford*. His lordship died in 1653, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

HENRY, second baron, K. B. on whose decease, without issue, in 1568, the title devolved upon his brother,

THOMAS, third baron. This nobleman was summoned to parliament in the thirteenth year of Elizabeth, and took his place on the 4th of April, but in the 27th of Elizabeth, being zealously affected to the Romish religion, and letters having been intercepted which betrayed his being a

well wisher to the queen of Scots, his lordship on the apprehension of Sir Francis Throgmorton, withdrew privately with Charles Arundel, into France: he married Nazaret, daughter of Sir John Newton, of Barrs Court, in the county of Somerset, and was succeeded at his decease, in 1589, by his son,

WILLIAM, fourth baron, by whom the title was transmitted, in 1629, to his son,

WILLIAM, fifth baron, born the thirteenth of September, 1609, married lady Frances Rich, by whom he had thirteen children. His lordship died the nineteenth of October 1678, and was succeeded by his second son, (the elder son died in infancy.)

WILLIAM, sixth baron, born the tenth of February, 1637, died the twenty-sixth of February, 1712, leaving only one child.

HENRY, seventh Lord Paget; created *Baron Burton, in the county of Stafford*, in 1712, during his father's life time; succeeded to the barony of Paget, and was advanced to the *earldom of Uxbridge*, the nineteenth of October, 1714. The earl married twice, and was succeeded, in 1743, by his grandson, (the son of his second son)

HENRY, eighth baron and second earl. This nobleman dying unmarried, the seventeenth of November, 1769, the earldom of Uxbridge, and barony of Burton became extinct; but the title of Paget, being a barony in fee, devolved upon the eldest surviving son of Sir Nicholas Bayley, Bart. and his wife, Caroline, daughter of Brigadier general Thomas Paget, grandson of William, fifth Lord Paget.

HENRY BAILEY, who assumed thereupon, the name and arms of Paget alone, and was summoned to parliament by writ, the thirteenth of January, 1770, as ninth Baron Paget. On the nineteenth of May, 1784, he was advanced to the dignity of the *Earl of Uxbridge*. His lordship married, the eleventh of April, 1767, Jane Champaigne, eldest daughter of Arthur, Dean of Clonmaenose, in Ireland, by whom he had issue,

HENRY WILLIAM, present Marquess of Anglesey.

Sir ARTHUR, G. C. B., married to Augusta, second daughter of John, Earl of Westmoreland.

Sir EDWARD, G. C. B., a general officer in the army, married first in 1805, Frances, daughter of William, first Lord Bagot, and secondly, in 1815, Harriet, daughter of George, third Earl of Dartmouth;

Sir CHARLES, K. C. B. rear-admiral of the white, married Miss Monck.

Berkeley, married Miss Grimstone.

Brownlow.

Caroline, widow of the Honorable Thomas John Capel.

Jane, present Countess of Galloway.

Louisa, lady of Lieutenant general Sir James Erskine, Bart.

Mary, married in 1803, to Thomas, Lord Graves. The earl died the thirteenth of March, 1812.

MOTTO.—*Per il suo contrario.*

ELFORD.

HAVING in our former pages inserted a description of Tamworth, and some interesting features attached to that town and its neighbourhood, we proceed to notice the pleasant village of Elford, in the deanery of the foregoing place; the latter, with its church and the mansion of its possessor, have been much noticed for their picturesque appearance, forming a pleasant group of objects, ornamenting the banks of the beautiful river Tame. Mr. Nightingale, we believe, correctly states its present appellation to have been derived from the number of eels with which the river formerly abounded in this neighbourhood, and that, previous to the conquest, this manor belonged to Earl Algar; but, upon that event, it was seized and retained, as his own property by the Norman monarch. During the reign of Henry III., it was in the possession of William de Arderne, whose descendants continued to enjoy it till the marriage of Maud, sole heiress of Sir John Arderne, with Thomas, second son of Sir John Stanley of Latham, carried it into that family.

By a succession of females, it passed in like manner to the Stantons; from the Stantons to the Smiths; from the Smiths to the Huddlestons; and from the Huddlestons to the Bowes, in which last family it remained for several generations, when it devolved on the honorable Craven Howard, by marriage with Mary, daughter of George Bowes, Esq. ancestor to the late Earl of Suffolk, upon whose death it fell to his sister, the honorable Frances Howard. Mr. Nightingale further states, that at Elford Park farm, which is situated about two miles from the village, is a barrow, called Elford-low, and, opposite to it, at the distance of a mile, another of smaller extent, both of them are evidently sepulchral, and were probably the burying places of the slain, in some battle, on or near the spot, during the Saxon heptarchy. These Lows are denominated by the common people, Robin Hood's shooting butts, from a belief prevalent among them, that he sometimes practised here, and was able to throw an arrow from the one to the other. Several human skeletons, a piece of a bayonet, a wooden noggin or bowl, and some warlike utensils were discovered in a field here, about the middle of the last century. Concerning the bones, it is impossible to offer even a plausible conjecture, but the remaining articles, in all probability, belonged to some soldiers at the time of the great rebellion in 1645.*

Mr. Pitt gives the distinguishing feature of *Elford-low*, as being situated on the top of a hill, a little beyond the paper-mill, in the corner of a field, close to the Tamworth road, and is distinguished by an oak tree on its summit. Dr. Plott, from examination, found it sepulchral, Mr. Pennant, from its elevation, conjectures that it might have had on it a *specula* or watch-tower, and Mr. Bourne, an intelligent farmer, informed Mr. Shaw, that he saw the bones of three human skeletons dug out of a gravel pit a few years since, near this Low, which seems a conclusive proof that it is the site of some ancient cemetery.

* Shaw's Stafford, vol. i. p. 381.

On the first payment of a subsidy, in the thirty-second of Elizabeth (1590), Elford paid xlix s. At the general election for the county, in 1747, fourteen freeholders in Elford voted.

The following account of Elford was written by Mr. Bourne—"the greater part of the village of Elford was common-field, meadow, &c. till the year 1765, when an act was obtained for an enclosure; previous to that time the land was let at very low rents, and the tenants were mostly in very low circumstances; by the enclosure the rents have been trebled, and the tenants better able to discharge them.

"The whole parish contains about nineteen hundred acres, one thousand and fifty-three of which belong to the lady Viscountess Andover, two hundred and forty to the rectory, five hundred and seventy-eight to different freeholders, and the remainder is laid out in roads. Of this land about five hundred acres are annually in tillage, and which, we suppose, bring as much grain to market as the whole parish did in its open state; the quantity of cheese made now, in proportion to that made prior to the enclosure, is more than three to one; the proportion of beef and mutton produced on the land, is still greater, as much as ten to one, for though there were sometimes many sheep kept in the common-fields, they were so subject to the rot, that little or no profit arose to the farmer or produce to the community. Respecting population, there were, prior to the enclosure, in the parish, fifty-seven houses or tenements; in 1794, after the enclosure, there were seventy-six houses, and three hundred and sixty inhabitants. This increase has not arisen from any manufactory, but merely from the increase of labour necessary for the improved cultivation. That inclosures sometimes injure the small farms, must be admitted; but that they are advantageous to the community must appear from the above statement of the produce of this place."

Mr. Pitt in noticing the handsome stone bridge across the Tame at Elford, and the paper and corn mills, a little above it, introduces the following interesting sketches of Mr. Bage, formerly the proprietor of these mills.

"The late Mr. Bage was the celebrated author of *Hermesprong*, or *Man* as he is not, and other popular novels: Mr Bage resided for many years at Elford, and afterwards removed to Tamworth, where he lived respected, and died regretted, in the year 1801. He was a native of Derby, and the late Mr. Hutton, in his history of that town, gives the following quaint account of the author and his publications:—"wherein is an excellent picture of life, a full display of character and sentiment. These have travelled to the continent, passed through the Frankfort press, and have appeared in a German habit." Although fortune never made him conspicuous in the great world, she gave him what is preferable, affluence and content; in directing a paper mill, may be found that head which is able to direct empires, that judgment which can decide in difficult cases, a penetration that can fathom the human heart and comprehend various systems of knowledge, a genius which constitutes the companion for Newton in philosophy, for Handel in music, for Euclid in mathematics, a master of the living and dead languages, and all, like the wealth of a merchant who rises from nothing, acquired by himself."

That rectitude which is here obscured from the public eye, but is a pearl of great price, and a credit to our species. Though a diminutive figure, yet one of the most amiable of men; and though barely a christian, yet one of the best. As Mr. Pitt justly remarks; "this high eulogium on the genius and character of one of our best modern novelists, will probably excite

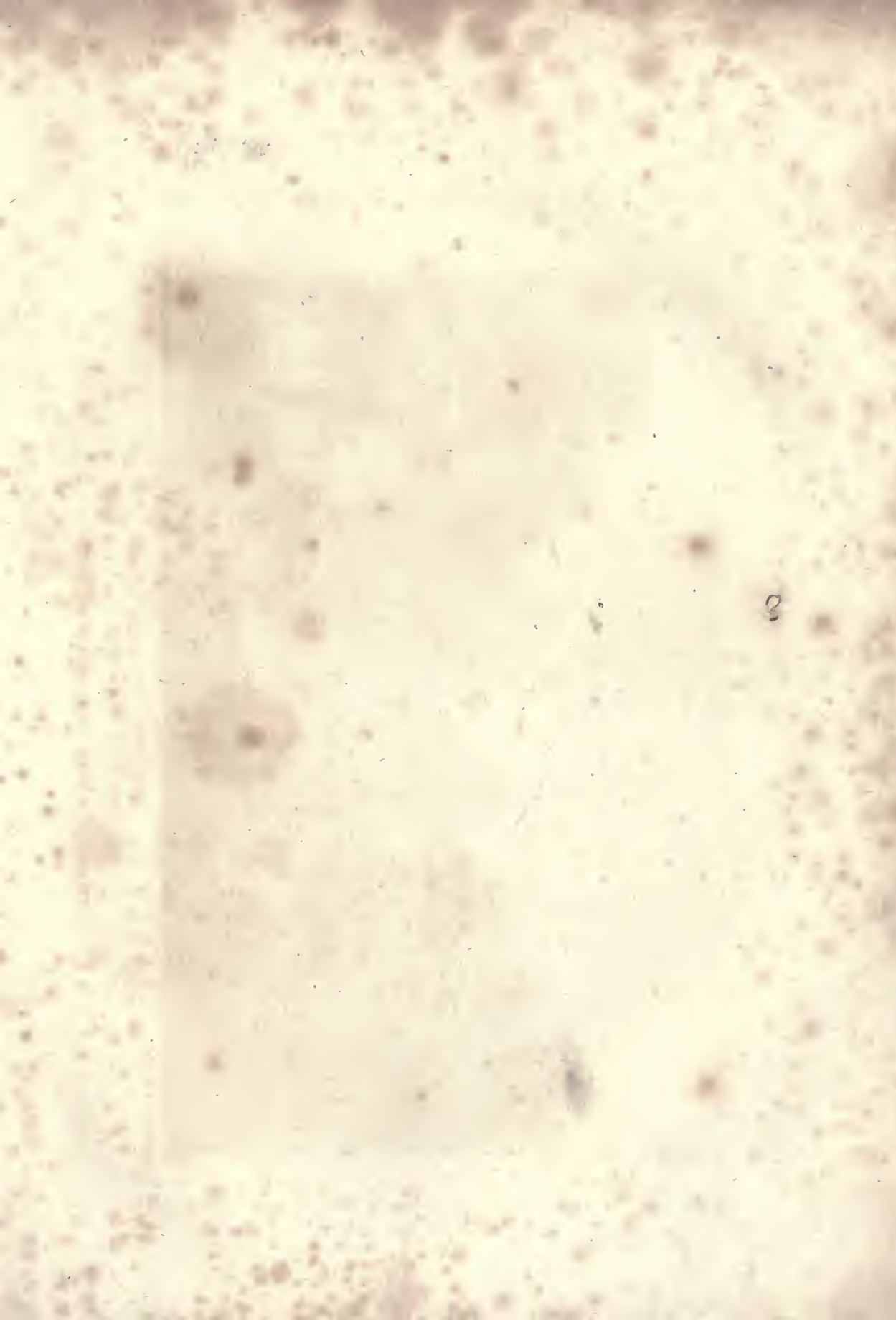
curiosity in the reader to learn some further particulars respecting him. The following Biographical sketch proves sufficient on the subject."

"Robert Bage was born at Derby, in the year 1728, his father was a paper manufacturer, and the son being intended for the same business, received a common school education; in his youth, however, he was remarkable for the vigour of his intellectual powers and his love of knowledge. He married and settled at Elford, where he conducted a paper mill till nearly the end of his life.

His desire of knowledge encreased with his years, and at intervals of leisure from his business, he studied and became a proficient in the modern languages, he afterwards turned his attention to the more abstruse branches of the mathematics, and engaged a teacher at Birmingham, with whom he spent an evening every week till he obtained the requisite instruction; from his retired situation he was but little accustomed to the manners of elegant society, hence his productions are rather those of a man of reflection, than a close observer of men and manners; he wrote five novels, *viz.* Mount Kenneth, Barham Downs, the Fair Syrian, James Wallace, Hermsprong, or Man as he is not, and Man as he is. (The latter work has had an immense circulation.)

Mr. Bage was happy in his matrimonial connection, and left two sons; one promising youth died before him; he died in the year 1801, aged seventy-three years, his character for integrity and benevolence was high, and his friends, who were much attached to him, describe his temper as open, mild, and social, he was kind to his domestics, and his humanity even extended to the domestic animals around him, particularly his horses when past work."

Elford church dedicated to St. Peter, is a fine old gothic structure, and contains several fine paintings on glass, and some ancient monuments of the Ardernes, Stanleys, Smiths, and other families of distinction.





ENGRAVED BY T. RADCLIFFE

THE SEAT OF JESSE JONES
from the Lodge Gate
SEAT OF J. COUCH ESQ.

PUBLISHED BY W. EMANS, BRONS GROVE, ST. BIRCHINGHAM

DRAWN BY F. CALVERT

PERRY.

FORMERLY called Perrie, is described by Mr. Pitt, as an ancient manor on the north-west, adjoining Sutton Coldfield; the river Tame passing along the side of it from Hampstead. Perry Hall and park, of which we have given a view; was with other estates, and a moiety of the manor purchased by sir Henry Gough, Knt. in the year 1669; and it has continued in that family down to the present owner. This mansion and the demense attached to it, have always been admired for their picturesque and beautiful appearance.

BURTON UPON TRENT.

A town of great antiquity, has many interesting circumstances attached to it, and was of considerable importance at an early period of the Saxon Heptarchy. It is situated on the north bank of the river Trent, in the hundred of Offlow, nineteen miles west from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and one hundred and twenty-five north-north-west, from London: it is a borough and a market town, and in 1821 contained eight hundred and thirty-three houses, and four thousand one hundred and fourteen inhabitants. A fine free stone bridge is thrown over the river Trent, and this river divides the counties of Stafford and Derby, and, as Capper states, is navigable hither from Gainsborough for vessels of considerable burden. At the south end of the town, on the banks of the river, are the ruins of an abbey, founded in 1004, which continued with vast power and property till the dissolution. Near the abbey stood the ancient parish church of St. Modwena, which was connected with the abbey by a cloister, but it was taken down, and the present church erected in 1722 on a much smaller scale; it is neat and convenient, with spacious galleries; it has also an organ, built in 1771 by subscription. The tower has eight bells with a clock and chimes.

The church is a perpetual curacy, exempt from episcopal jurisdiction, in the patronage of the Marquess of Anglesea, who is also proprietor of the tythes to a considerable amount. The marquess is also lord of the manor of Burton and its hamlets, and the remains of the abbey are now his manor house: he holds annually two court-leets, under the management of the perpetual bailiff and coroner, and also two probate courts, for proving wills, &c. Here is also a court of requests for the recovery of small debts; and the inhabitants are exempt from serving on county

juries. This place is famous for the excellence of its ale and malt, which is sent down the rivers to Hull, and forwarded thence through the whole kingdom and to the different ports of the continent. It has manufactures of hats, cottons, tammies, and some articles of iron, particularly one for the purpose of converting bloom and scrap iron into bars. The town consists of one principal street, which is crossed by another at right angles; in the market place is a neat town hall, erected at the sole expence of the Marquess of Anglesea: in this the public business of the town is transacted, and it also serves as an assembly and concert room. Here is a free school, several Sunday schools, and two almshouses for poor women. The borough lying low, it is reckoned rather unhealthy. The market on Thursday is well supplied with all kinds of meat, corn, poultry, &c. Fairs, February 2nd, April 5th, May 30th, July 6th, August 31st, October 29th.

In speaking of Burton, Mr. Pitt says, that in the Saxon annals it is written Byretun, synonymous to Buryton, a word used by that people to denote places of British or Roman origin. It is therefore probable that Bury or manor house, was the residence of some eminent personage here before the Saxons conquered England. The site of Burton is indeed extremely pleasant; between an extensive space of level and fertile fields on the west, and a beautiful range of hills on the east, runs the river Trent; these and other hills about two miles north-west of the town, were formerly covered with wood, thus combining all the attractions of a commanding station, fine prospect, and fruitful soil, the principal requisites for the establishment of a permanent habitation.

According to Hollingshed, the earliest records of Burton commence with those of St. Modwena, who flourished in the ninth century, and of whom he relates the following account. "In this season, one Modwena, a virgin in Ireland, was greatly renowned in the world, unto whom king Ethelwolfe sent his son Alfred to be cured of a disease that was thought to be incurable; but by her means he recovered health, and therefore when her monasterie was destroyed in Ireland, Modwena came over to England, unto whom king Ethelwolfe gave land to build two abbies, and also delivered unto her his sister Edith to be professed a nun: Modwena hereupon built two monasteries, one at Polesworth joining to the bounds of Arderne, wherein she placed the aforesaid Edith with Osith and Athea; the other, whether it was a monasterie or a cell, she founded in Strenshall, or Trentsall, where she herself remained solitarie a certain time in praier and other virtuous exercises. And as it is reported she went thrice to Rome, and finallie died, being one hundred and thirty years of age; hir bodie was first buried in an island, compassed about with the river of Trent, called Andresey, taking the name of a church or chappelle of St. Andrew which she had built in the same island, and dwelled therein for the space of seven years. Manie monasteries she builded both in England, and also in Scotland, as at Striveling, Edinbrough, and in Ireland, at Celestline, and elsewhere." Mr. Pitt in continuation states "In the year 1002, and the twenty-third year of the reign of Ethelred, the abbey of Burton was founded by Wulfric, Ulfric, or Alfric, earl of Mercia." The book of Abingdon assert, that Wulfric gave his whole estate, then valued at £700. to endow this abbey. In the year 1004 this donation was ratified by King Ethelred, and in 1010 Wulfric was slain in an engagement with the Danes.

When Burton abbey was in its most flourishing state, it possessed very extensive domains, consisting of manors, townships, and lands in this county, and in Derbyshire, Leicestershire,

and Warwickshire. In the year 1260, the abbey was inhabited by thirty monks. There were thirty-five abbots in succession from the year 1004, to the fourth of November, 1540, when King Henry VIII. after the dissolution of monastic institutions, made the abbey of Burton a collegiate church, dedicated to Christ and St. Mary; to consist of a dean and four prebends, and endowed it with the manor of Burton and other possessions. It continued to enjoy this distinction only four years. The seal of the college is beautiful; it is a representation of our Saviour and his disciples at the last supper; the arms of Wulfric, the founder of the abbey, are engraved at the bottom; and the words on the margin, in Latin, signify, "the common seal of the dean and chapter of the collegiate church of Christ, at Burton-upon-Trent." This abbey was very extensive; the church was two hundred and twenty-eight feet in length, and fifty-two and a half in breadth, adorned with a handsome tower at both ends. The cloisters, situate on the north side of the church, were one hundred feet square. The frayton adjoining, was ninety-six feet in length, and thirty in breadth, and the principal dormitory on the east, one hundred feet by ten. The vestiges of the cloisters are still visible in the old wall between the church-yard and the bowling-green. In this wall are several remains of Saxon architecture, particularly some curious arches; and, beyond these, on the margin of the Trent, are some vestiges of the monastery; the most remarkable is the outline of the east window of a chapel, now filled up with brick and mortar. The old manor-house is the property of the Marquess of Anglesea: what was once the porter's lodge, on the side next the town, is now converted into a blacksmith's shop.

The church dedicated to St. Modwena, was standing in the early part of the eighteenth century; it was taken down, and the present neat edifice, with a fine tower, was erected on its site, in the year 1720. In the west gallery is an elegant and well toned organ, erected in 1771, and the tower contains eight musical bells, with a set of excellent chimes. This church contains many monumental inscriptions: in the belfry lies a defaced monument, supposed to be the tomb of the original founder of the abbey; and, within these few years, several stone coffins have been found in the church-yard.

But the most remarkable antiquity in Burton is its bridge, which consists of thirty-six arches, extending five hundred and fifteen feet, and was first built in the time of Bernard, abbot of Burton, in the reign of King Henry II. about the year 1175.*

Burton retains the name of a borough, merely with reference to the translation of *burgos*, a town, though some of the abbots were formerly summoned by writ, and sat in parliament.† The lord of the manor has a court of record in it weekly, on Friday, called the Jenters' court, where pleas can be maintained to any amount, and his bailiff is also coroner. A court of requests, for the recovery of small debts, is likewise held under the bailiff. Among other privileges, the inhabitants are exempted from being empannelled on county-juries.

The town of Burton, as we have before remarked, consists of one principal street, called High Street, and, as Mr. Pitt describes it, "extends in a parallel line with the river, from north to south; this street is intersected at right angles, by another, called Horninglow Street. The town-hall, which is a neat edifice, is erected on the site of the old market-house. In this hall

* Erdiswick's Survey of Staffordshire.

† Shaw's Antiquities of Staffordshire, vol. i. p. 11.

are held the courts leet, and all other public meetings for business and amusement. A remarkable old house situated near the centre of the town, adorned with wooden pillars, and carved Gothic ornaments, has long been admired as an object worthy of notice. Among other public institutions, a free grammar school, founded and endowed by the abbot, William Beane, in the year 1520, is worthy of notice. It is situated in the north-west angle of the church-yard. There are two alms-houses in the town, endowed by Lady Paulett, and Mrs. Ellen Parker, for the maintenance of eleven poor women."

"In the year 1787, several sunday schools for the instruction of poor children, were established in the parish of Burton: an annual subscription of thirty guineas, from the earl and countess of Uxbridge, the benefactions of the inhabitants of the town, and an annual charity sermon preached for the benefit of this institution, contributed essentially to its success; and four hundred and fifty children received instruction from eleven schools."

There are six hamlets belonging to Burton, namely, Burton Extra, Brannston, Horninglow, and Stretton, and two in Derbyshire. The commons belonging to these hamlets were enclosed in 1771 and 1772; the arable lands are light and gravelly, and the pastures and meadows level and luxuriant.

The number of freeholders in Burton, who voted at the great contested election in 1749*, was fifty. According to an accurate survey in October, 1789,

Burton contained	626 houses.	2926 inhabitants.
Burton Extra	102	553
Total	728	3479

In the year 1801, according to the population returns, Burton contained seven hundred and thirty-eight houses, and three thousand six hundred and seventy-nine inhabitants; in 1811 the population had increased to three thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine, and, in 1821, as we have before remarked, it contained eight hundred and thirty-three houses, and four thousand one hundred and fourteen inhabitants.

The market of Burton, first granted by King John, and confirmed by King Henry III., is held on Thursday; and, in consequence of the trade and manufactures of the town, and the opulence of the neighbourhood, it is well attended and supplied with grain, butcher's meat, butter, poultry, &c. Among its chronological and remarkable events, Mr. Pitt enumerates the following:—"In the year 1255, the greatest part of Burton was consumed by an accidental fire."

In the fourteenth year of the reign of Edward II., Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, was at the head of a formidable insurrection against that prince; and, in the following year, the king raised a powerful army, and several of the earl's confederates deserted from him, and went over to the royal standard. The earl's faithful adherents marched with him first to Gloucester, and then to Burton-upon-Trent, and so on to his castle at Tutbury, about four miles distant from the town. While on his march, the earl sent a confidential officer into Lancashire to bring up five hundred men to his aid, but he conducted the levies to the king's army, and apprized Edward of the earl's intentions. The king immediately pursued his enemy, first marching to Co-

* At this election, William Leveson Gower, Esq., and Sir Walter Bagot, were returned.

ventry and thence to Lichfield, where the two Spencers joined him with all their forces. On the approach of the royal army to Burton, the earl placed infantry on each side of the bridge, to prevent the king's passage over the Trent. The king then forded the river at Walton, about three miles above the town, which being made known to the earl, he sallied forth with his troops from Tutbury castle, in expectation of being joined by his Lancashire auxiliaries. On hearing of their defection, he fled northwards, and was pursued to Pontefract, where he was taken and beheaded.* The abbey of Burton suffered so much by the depredations of the rebels, that the king, in memory of his victory, gave to it the advowsons of the churches of Tatenhill and Hanbury, in this county, which were forfeited to the crown by the rebellious Earl of Lancaster.†

The appearance of the *aurora borealis*, or northern lights, is mentioned among the memorable events recorded in the annals of Burton. “*Mem.* On Monday and Tuesday, in the mornynge, being the xvth and xvth dayes of November, in the yeare of our Lorde God, one thousand fyve hundreth threescore and foureteene, there were seen in the element, certayne strange lights, whereof some appeared verie fyerie, and terrible to beholde, and stretched downe, as yt seemed, almost to the earthe, and were in the northe, the easte, and the weste, and at those tymes yt was as light as if it had been daye. These lights continued from tenne of the clocke in the nighte, untill the breake of the day, and seemed most fearfull in the mornynge, after foure of the clocke; and hapned the dayes ymmediately after the chaunge of the moone, and the eclipse of the sunne.‡”

In the year 1611, Edward Wightman, of Burton, was burnt at Lichfield, for holding dangerous and blasphemous opinions.

During the civil wars between King Charles I. and the parliament, Burton suffered greatly, being several times taken and retaken by the conflicting parties in the year 1643.

In December, 1793, a night-watch was first established in Burton.

Burton has been occasionally injured by the inundations of the Trent, particularly one in 1771, which overflowed the greatest part of the town; another 1792; a third in 1795; and a fourth in 1798.

In 1815, a deputation from Burton presented a loyal address to the prince regent on his arrival at Beaudesert, the seat of the Marquess of Anglesea upon which occasion the bailiff (John Dickenson Fowler) received the order of knighthood.

MANUFACTURES.

Leland, in his Itinerary, says that Burton was then famous for ornamental works in alabaster; and this fact is confirmed by Camden. This business has, however, been discontinued for more than a century, though alabaster is still to be found in the neighbourhood of Needwood forest.

In the seventeenth century many of the inhabitants of Burton were clothiers, and their kersies were held in great estimation; and some tammies and woollen cloths are now manufactured in this town.

* Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 781.

† Shaw's Antiquities of Staffordshire, vol. i. p. 17.

‡ At the end of Lord Uxbridge's curious rental.

But the chief article of commerce produced in Burton, is its ale, for which it has long been celebrated. The original cottons, screws, and other articles have also been manufactured in this town to a considerable extent.

CHEADLE

Is a market-town to Uttoxeter, in the hundred of Totmanslow south; and, as described by Mr. Nightingale, is pleasantly situated in a vale, but surrounded on all sides by bleak and almost barren hills, composed of stérile gravel, distributed in various large heaps. The top of the hill on the west, affords a bold and commanding view of the highest part of the town, even, as Mr. Pitt observes, of the chimney-tops. Owing to the public spirited exertions, and judicious management of John Holliday, Esq. lord of the manor of Cheadle, many hilly districts in this neighbourhood have been greatly improved. *Cheadle Park*, forming the hill just mentioned, is three miles in circumference, and consists of thirty-three inclosures, which let, on an average, at fifteen shillings per acre. They abound in coal mines of considerable value. That part, however, nearest the town, is still sandy and unimproved. This park, from which Lichfield minster, though distant twenty-seven miles, may be distinctly seen; is much resorted to as a pleasant walk.

The hills, north and west of the town, are generally composed of the same materials as the one just mentioned, upon an understratum of sand or sandy rock; and the herbage consists for the most part, of broom, heath, whortleberries, mountain cinquefoil, matt grass, and hemp seeds. These barren wastes, observes Mr. Pitt, are pretty extensive, and not worth, he believes, more than one shilling per acre, as pasturage for sheep, or any other animal. Though this gentleman is of opinion, that they are generally too poor and beggarly, to be reclaimable by cultivation, for the purposes of corn or pasturage, he has suggested some valuable hints, for rendering these moorland districts valuable, when converted into coppices and plantations for timber and underwood; and suggests that probably the Scotch and other firs, and sycamore, would succeed here. And, indeed, what Mr. Holliday has accomplished in the neighbourhood of Dillhorn is sufficient proof that few, if any, of these uncultivated wastes, are really incapable of being rendered highly valuable nurseries of timber. In the year 1792 the gold medal was adjudged to this gentleman, for having planted on twenty-eight acres, three roods, and twenty-eight perches of land, one hundred and thirteen thousand five hundred mixed timber trees.* Since that time, other attempts have been made, and with considerable success, to improve these apparently barren wastes. The hints of Mr. Pitt, to which I have just alluded, are deserving of a

* Rev. Stebbing Shaw's note in Pitt's Agricultural Survey, p. 262.

place in this work. "Perhaps, says he, many other of our native timber trees might succeed, intermixed with these, (*viz.* the fir and the sycamore) as one would shelter and screen another. To give any such plantations a fair chance of success, I should propose to begin, not on the summits, but on the declivities of the hills; and, as such first plantations increased in growth, to proceed with such fresh ones nearer the summit, till the whole should be covered; by which management the plants of strength and growth would be made to protect and shelter those of tender age. The putrefaction and rotting of leaves, from such plantations, would increase and enrich the surface soil; and, as they came to maturity, the woodlands, upon plain and practicable ground, might be cleared and converted into arable and pasture land. If such scheme be practicable, which I think it certainly is by judicious management and perseverance, these dreary barren hills, which now convey an idea of nothing but poverty, want, and misery, would not only beautify and ornament the country, but, by furnishing it with timber and wood, answer the purpose of more valuable land, and enable an equal breadth of plain woodland to be converted to pasture and arable, without rendering the supply of these necessary articles uncertain or precarious." This sensible and judicious plan, founded on the true economy of nature, and the perfect analogy of animal life, to which vegetation bears so near and so pleasing a resemblance, would apply with equal force to many other districts; and, if perseveringly and extensively put into execution, would be of signal advantage to the agricultural interests of Great Britain.

Whilst we are on this subject of the wastes of the moorlands, and as it has not been sufficiently adverted to before, it may be well to enlarge this apparent digression by a more extended and detailed view of the soil and natural products of this wild and romantic portion of the country. The moorlands, as they are called, comprehend a large part of the north east district, and are usually described, as comprehending all that part, north of a line, supposed to be drawn in an oblique direction from Uttoxeter to Newcastle-under-line. This delineation cannot be better described than in the words of Mr. Pitt, who, in the appendix to his interesting survey, has given a somewhat brief, but, upon the whole, very accurate description. Of this we can vouch with the greater freedom, from having, ourselves, traversed most of the districts which he mentions.

The commons, or waste lands, between Cheadle and Oakmoor (a place so named from being nearly covered with dwarf oaks,*) called *High Shutt Ranges* and *Alveton-common*, consist of an immense number of rude heaps of gravel, upon an understratum of soft sandy rock, thrown together without order or form, or rather, into every form that can be conceived, into sudden swells and deep glens, with scarcely a level perch to the mind, in endeavouring to account for their formation, must conceive it owing either to some violent convulsion of nature, or some strange confusion of matter. This tract, impracticable to the plough, now rough, barren and bare, might be improved into woodland and plantations, and some open spots of the most favourable aspects might be reserved for gardens to cottage tenements, and cultivated with the spade and hoe. Above *Oakmoor*, to the north, the plan of planting precipices has been executed. A plantation has been made there, on a declivity as barren, rocky, and bare of soil, as any before-mentioned: this plantation, which is little more than twenty years old, is in a very thriving state, and contains

* Notes in Pitt, p. 264.

Scotch firs, spruce, oak, lime, birch, fallow, and mountain ash. A little north of Oak Moor, the lime stone country begins, and extends over a great breadth of country to the north, east, and west, in many places rising out of the main surface in huge cliffs. The Weaver Hills, already mentioned, are covered with a rich, calcareous, loamy earth, capable of being improved into very good arable or pasture land. These hills are composed of immense heaps of lime stone, and are enclosed in large tracts by stone walls.

On one of the summits grows, indigenous, the upland burnet, (*poterium sanguisorba*.) This plant has not been deemed a native of Staffordshire. The herbage of these hills contain many good plants, both grasses and trifoliums, but the hills are much overgrown with uneven lumps covered with moss or lichen.

Stoutmoor, to the east, is a considerable waste on a limestone: large quantities of lime are burnt upon *Cauldon Low*, and elsewhere in this neighbourhood, and there are marks of lime-kilns, formerly on *Weaver Hills*. Lime is much used here as manure, being sometimes laid on ploughed ground, at other times on turf, with very good effect in fining such turf. It has been remarked, that after liming a coarse of turf, white clover has been produced in abundance, where that plant had not been observed before. The limestone here is intermixed with a portion of gypsum or alabaster.

The fences are for the most part composed of stone walls, often so constructed as to admit the winds, which are sometimes very high in these districts, to pass through them. When we were there, we noticed, that the most compact walls had received the greatest damage from the weather. Mr. Pitt, expresses himself with some warmth, against this "barbarous practice," of using stone walls instead of quickset fences, which he says are much cheaper, more durable, vastly more beautiful and ornamental, and make the country and climate more temperate. This opinion, particularly with regard to the point of cheapness, one of Mr. Pitt's annotators, Mr. Sneyd, of Belmont, near Leek, does not confirm; he remarks that stone walls were originally raised from the prevailing idea of convenience and cheapness, in finding the material on the surface; and he adds, no wonder they should be continued, and in many places, (particularly low situations) they are superior to hedges. So confident, however, is Mr. Pitt, that quickset fences are infinitely superior, in every respect to stone walls, that he is persuaded, if the owners and occupiers of land would have so much regard for their own interest, and the symmetry and beauty of their country, as by degrees to do away this invention of barbarous ages, and a violence to nature, by planting quicksets, to which the stone walls would be a fence and shelter on one side; and if they would, moreover, attend to the other certainly very plausible and valuable improvements, which he suggests, "posterity will wonder why the country was call Moorlands."

We will not here farther pursue Mr. Pitt's very ingenious and pleasing account of the Moorlands, but will notice the parts in succession as we pass along.

Cheadle itself has nothing remarkable, either in its history, or for remains of antiquity. The church, which is dedicated to St. Giles, is an ancient structure. The trade consists for the most part, of copper, brass, and tin works. The market is on Friday, and is amply supplied with provisions of all kinds. The population, according to the census of 1801, consisted of two thousand seven hundred and fifty inhabitants, viz. one thousand three hundred and seventy-one

males, and one thousand three hundred and seventy-nine females, of which number, six hundred and seventy-five, were returned as being employed in various trades and manufactures, and four hundred and sixty-eight in agriculture. This return was, however, certainly very erroneous, and much below the truth. There were then five hundred and seventy-seven houses; they have increased very considerably since that period, and both this and other market towns of the Moorlands, are gradually enlarging in proportion with the progress made in inclosures and cultivation.

Here are also a free school, with a small endowment, and meeting houses for methodists and dissenters of various denominations.

Cheadle was the ancient seat of the great baronial family of Basset, of Drayton, Blore, &c.*

Cheadle has not increased in its population in proportion to Mr. Nightingale's opinion, for although Mr. Pitt in his work, 1817, states, "that the parish of Cheadle contained six hundred and twenty-six houses, six hundred and forty families, one thousand five hundred and thirty-five males, and one thousand six hundred and fifty-six females, total, three thousand, one hundred and ninety-one." Capper in 1825 describes it as follows: "Cheadle a market town in the hundred of Totmanslow, Stafford, nine and a half miles north-west from Uttoxeter, and one hundred and forty-six north-north-west from London, contained in 1821, seven hundred and forty-six houses, and three thousand eight hundred and sixty-two inhabitants." The town pleasantly situated on the side of a hill is surrounded by coal pits; and several manufactories of brass, copper, tin, &c. have been established. At the back of the town rises a very high ground, called the Park, which being a pleasant walk, with an extensive prospect, is much frequented by the inhabitants, and commands, as we have before remarked, a view of Lichfield Cathedral, though at the distance of twenty-seven miles. About four miles from the town are the ruins of Croxden Abbey, founded by Bertram de Verdon, in 1176 for Cistercian monks; several of the old walls and gateways are still standing, and the walls of the chancel form part of the out-houses of a farm yard. It was originally a very extensive building, but was destroyed in the civil wars by Cromwell. The market on Friday is well supplied with all kinds of provisions. Fairs, January the fourth, March the twenty-fifth, May the twentieth, July the second, August the twenty-first, and October the eighteenth.

Although we have stated that Cheadle presents "nothing remarkable either in its history, or for remains of antiquity." Mr. Pitt describes the Church as an ancient Gothic structure of stone roofed with oak, the square stone tower containing a clock and six bells, is adorned with four pinnacles and vanes; the interior of the church is neat; the nave is supported by six Gothic arches, and it contains two galleries. When viewed from the chancel, the effect is simple and sublime; the windows "casting a dim religious light," and the large organ at the west end, in a very elevated situation, rising almost to the high roof, gives an air of magnificence to the whole.

The following epitaph in the church yard is considered unique.

* See Dugdale's *Baronetage*, the *Topographer*, vol. ii. p. 318, and Collins's *Peerage* by Sir E. Brydges vol. viii. p. 502.

" In sixteen hundred and ninety-three,
 GEORGE WOOD, of Cheadle, set this tree ;
 Which was alive, but now he's dead,
 Up to this stone here lies his head.
 Be sure you have account to give,
 When you are dead, how you did live."

He was buried at the root of a yew-tree of his own planting, which is now rooted up.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LINE.

DR. PLOTT, Mr. Stebbing Shaw, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Nightingale, and others, give a full account of this town, the latter thus describes it:

This borough and market-town is situated on a branch of the river Trent, and derived its name and origin from the new fortress, built by Earl Lancaster, in the centre of an extensive pool. Of this castle scarcely any vestiges can now be discovered; it having fallen to decay at least three centuries ago. Leland says, that in his time the whole edifice was destroyed, with the exception of one tower.*

The first charter of corporation, granted in favour of this town, is dated in the reign of Henry. This deed was afterwards confirmed by Queen Elizabeth and Charles II. with some additional privileges. In virtue of these charters the government of the town is now vested in the mayor, two justices, two bailiffs, and twenty-four common council men, who possess the right of holding a court, for the recovery of debts under forty pounds.

Newcastle sends two members to parliament, and has done so ever since the twenty-seventh year of the reign of Edward III. The right of election has several times been the subject of parliamentary investigation, during the two last centuries. The first time the question was agitated was in 1624, when the decision favoured ancient custom, which declared that the free men residents did not forfeit their title to vote, till a year and a day after they had left the town. In the subsequent contests, in 1705 and 1792, the discussion was confined to the question of residence for a year and a day, that they had actually ceased to reside in the town, and was decided against their claim. In the trial of the last petition by Thomas Fletcher, Esq. and Clement Kinnersley, Esq. against Sir Archibald Mac Donald and the honourable Leveson Gower, the sitting members, it appeared in evidence that a great part of this borough was the property of the Marquis of Stafford, whose influence directed the choice of the electors; that it was found cus-

* Leland's Itin. Vol. vii. p. 36.

tomary for the burgesses to live ten, fifteen, and even twenty years in the houses, without payment of rent; and that the then members were brother and son-in-law of that nobleman. Upon the trial of this petition, the counsel for the petitioners stated the right of election to be vested in the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, or freemen, whose place of residence at the time of giving their votes was in the said borough; or who at such time have no place of residence elsewhere, and who have never been absent from the borough a year and a day, without interruption, since they were admitted to the freedom thereof, or whose families (if they were masters of families) have not been absent for the space of time aforesaid, without interruption, after the time of the admission of such burgesses or freemen having families to the freedom of the said borough. The counsel for the sitting members maintained the right of election to be in the freemen residing in the borough of Newcastle, and not receiving alms or church bread; and that persons living a and a day out of the borough lose their freedom.

The committee having considered these statements, and examined evidence, both written and oral, relative to the question at issue, determined that neither the view of the petitioners, nor of their opponents in the petition, coincided with fact; but declared their opinion, that the right of election was vested "in the freemen residing in the borough of Newcastle-under-line."

The situation of Newcastle is extremely pleasant, and the houses display considerable neatness of architecture, and uniformity of arrangement. The principal street in particular is spacious and well paved. This town formerly possessed four churches, of which only one now remains having a square embattled tower, containing a chime of eight bells. The others suffered demolition during the barons' wars, after which period they were never rebuilt. Besides the established church, which is only a chapelry to Stoke, there are several meeting houses for Dissenters of different denominations.

The *Alms-houses*, twenty in number, were built and endowed by the marquis of Stafford and Lord Grenville for the assistance of twenty poor women inhabitants of the town. A monastery for black friars is said to have stood in its southern division; but no vestige of this edifice can now be discovered.*

The clothing trade and a manufactory of hats, constitute the chief employment of the inhabitants, and are consequently the principal sources of their wealth, independent of the potteries, which have been described in a previous part of our work.

Here is an excellent market place situated in the centre of the principal street. The market day is on Monday, when all sorts of provisions are abundant. Every alternate week a great cattle market is held.

An excellent device for the cure of shrews or scolding women has been frequently put in practice within the limits of this ancient borough; a bridle being fixed in the scold's mouth, which deprives her of the power of speech, she is led through the town, and exposed to public shame till she promises amendment.

The immediate neighbourhood of Newcastle is distinguished in the sporting world, as containing a race course, which is not a little dangerous, on account of the numerous unfilled coal pits by which it is surrounded. Plott informs us, in his *Natural History of the county*, that he

* Leland's *Itin.* vol. vii. p. 36.

saw a solid block of stone raised from a quarry here, which exhibited the petrified skull of a human being entire, most probably that of some malefactor who had been executed there; the spot where it was found being still called gallows tree, in memory of its ancient appropriation.

According to the parliamentary returns of 1801, the population of this town in that year, amounted to four thousand four hundred and ninety-five persons; viz. two thousand two hundred and thirty-five males, and two thousand two hundred and sixty females, of which number six hundred and thirty-five were returned as employed in different branches of trade and manufacture, and three only, in agriculture. In 1821 it contained one thousand three hundred and ninety-nine houses, seven thousand and thirty-one inhabitants, of whom, one thousand one hundred and eighty-four families were employed in manufactures.

The neighbouring country boasts of many ancient and highly respectable gentlemen's seats.

Mr. Pitt in his county history, has given a very accurate, full, and satisfactory account of this town, of which he says *NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME* (sometimes spelt *Lime* or *Line*; but all the charters of the borough give the addition of *under Lyme*.) This borough and market-town is situate within the hundred of Pirchill, and, although entirely surrounded by parishes which are within the northern division of that hundred, is considered, for the public purposes of the county, to be in the southern district. Newcastle is distant from Lichfield thirty-one miles, from Stafford sixteen miles, and from Leek twelve miles; Monday is the regular market-day, and another market on Saturday has been established within these few years, to meet the demand of the encreased population.

There are well-attended fairs for horses, cattle, woollen-cloths, and many other articles; February the twenty-second, April the twelfth, May the thirty-first, July the twelfth, September the thirteenth, and November the first.

Although Mr. Nightingale has given an accurate description of Newcastle, we cannot pass over the historical documents of Mr. Pitt, who states that "this borough, and also a manor of considerable extent adjacent to it, known by the name of the manor of Newcastle-under-Lyme, derive the former part of their appellation from a castle, which stood in the midst of a large pool, now nearly surrounded by the town. The manor appears, from ancient documents, to have extended over the liberties of Penkhull, Wolstanton, Shelton, Hanley, Clayton, Seabridge, Knutton, Dimsdale, Holditch, Hanchurch, Hanford, Whitmore, Keel, Fenton, Longton, Meerlane, Normacott, Tunstall, Chatterley, Bradwell, and Thursfield."

Antiquaries have generally supposed, upon the authority of Camden, that the castle had its name on account of an older castle which stood not far from it, at Chesterton-under-Lyme; but, supposing this to be correct, the addition of *under-Lyme* still wants explanation, and if it ever formed part of the name of Chesterton it has long ceased to do so. Camden's account of Newcastle is as follows;*

"The Trent first runs southward, with many windings, not far from Newcastle-under-Lime, so called upon the account of an older castle, which first belonged to Ranulph, Earl of Chester, by the gift of King John, and after, by the bounty of Henry III., to the house of Lancaster."

"Later authors have been led into error, by the ungrammatical construction of the above quotation, for it is certain that Camden must have meant, that the ruinous walls which he had

* Camden's Britannia. edit. 1695. p. 530.

seen of an old castle formerly belonging to the Earl of Chester, and afterwards to the house of Lancaster, were the walls of *Newcastle*, and not, as the sentence at first reading seems to imply, the walls of the castle of *Chesterton*."

Dr. Plott fell into the above named error, and he proceeds to state,* that the castle of *Chesterton* went to decay "as long ago as the reign of King Henry III., when the Earl of Lancaster built another near by, in the midst of a great pool, which he called the New Castle, that gave origin (no doubt) to the town of that name, close by it." Bishop Gibson, the editor of *Camden*, follows Dr. Plott in his mistake, and he also asserts† that *Newcastle* was "built in Henry III's time, by the Earl of Lancaster."

The authorities which we shall cite, fully justify our interpretation of *Camden*, that they prove in contradiction to Plott and Gibson, that the town, as well as the castle, of *Newcastle-under-Lyme*, existed not only before the creation of the earldom of Lancaster, but even before the reign of Henry III.

In the fifth of King John (1203) the town of *Newcastle* was amerced, for having changed its market-day from Sunday to Saturday.‡

In the seventeenth of King John (1215) a grant was made from the crown to Ranulph-de-Blondeville, Earl of Chester, of *Newcastle-under-Line*, and its liberties,§ including, in all probability, the manor as well as the castle of that name. The crown, however, appears shortly to have regained possession of *Newcastle* and all its appendages. Amongst the inquisitions remaining in the exchequer,|| there is one of early, though indeterminate date, in the reign of Henry III. stating that our Lord the King held as forfeited, the New Castle, with the town and manor, including by that name, most of the townships which are now considered parcel of the manor. The manor appears to have been granted in fee-farm by Henry III. to Gilbert Lord Segrave, in 1232,¶ but the castle and town remained in the possession of the crown. During this period the castle was held for the king under the government of a constable,** which appears to have been an office of considerable importance. In the thirty-fifth of Henry III., the constablenesship was held by one of the Audley family,†† and afterwards by William de Fenton, who appears to have been constable in the thirty-seventh and forty-second years of the same reign.‡‡

Many of the freehold tenants of this manor were bound by their tenures, to perform the castle guard at different periods of the year. The *Testa de Nevill*, which is an ancient record preserved in the exchequer, and compiled by John Nevill, a justice in Eyre, between the years 1234 and 1238.

* Plott's *Natural Hist. of Staffordshire*, p. 434.

† *Camden's Britannia*, edit. 1695, p. 538.

‡ From the record of *Assise et placita Coronæ*, taken at Lichfield on St. Matthew's day, 5th King John.— See *Abbreviatio Placitorum*. § *Calendarium Rotulorum in the Exchequer*, published 1803: p. 30.

|| *Calendarium inquisit. post mort.* vol. i. p. 202.

¶ *Magna Britannia et Hibernia*, vol. v. p. 64.

** *Ibid*, p. 64.

†† *Ibid*, p. 64.

‡‡ From old Grants.

CROXDEN, AND CROXDEN ABBEY.

CROXDEN is a parish in Totmanslow hundred, Staffordshire, about five miles north from Uttoxeter, and one hundred and forty from London.

It has varied very little in its population for the last twenty years. In 1801, the parish, including the township of Great Yate, contained forty-three houses, and forty-three families; one hundred and thirty-seven males, and one hundred and twenty-six females; total inhabitants, 263. In 1821 it only contained forty-four houses, and two hundred and fifty-three inhabitants. The most remarkable object in the parish is the venerable ruins of

CROXDEN ABBEY,

About half a mile distant from the village, and is thus described by Mr. Pitt: "This abbey was founded and endowed with lands and revenues, by Bertram de Verdon, in the twenty-second year of the reign of Henry II. A. D. 1176, for monks of the Cistercian order. It is situated in a fertile valley, near a small rivulet called the Peake, and was for many ages, the burying-place of the Verdonis.

Croxden abbey is a very picturesque and extensive ruin. The principal entrance at the west end is yet entire, and consists of a most magnificent Gothic arch of excellent workmanship, as the ornamental stone cornices are yet undecayed, although exposed to the weather for nearly six centuries and a half. Above this noble arch, part of the abbey-wall rises to the height of forty feet, overgrown with ivy: this is a beautiful picturesque object, worthy of the highest efforts of the painter and engraver. About ninety feet from this ruin, another part of the abbey wall stands bare and grey, distinctly marking the length of the edifice. A small arch, ready to crumble into ruins, stands on the north side, between these two high walls. At the west end, besides the large and perfect arch before-mentioned, there are four small arches of exquisite workmanship, and perfectly entire. The interior has the remains of a large fire-place, and an arched door-way leads to the cemetery or court, where there is a stone coffin preserved on a level with the surface of the ground. Several other stone coffins have been discovered in these ruins, and one of lead, all of which were covered up again by Mr. Carrington, whose large and commodious farm-house is situated near the western end of the abbey, and the ruin itself is part of his farm-yard. In a recess in Mr. Carrington's garden, a stone crucifix is preserved; it is about two feet and a half high; the left arm is broken off, but preserved in the recess, and, on the back of this curious relic, there is a rude representation of the Virgin and Child ensculptured, but now almost worn out by time.

Croxden Church is a small stone fabric, with a belfry of wood, containing one bell. The win-

dow on the north side is built up, and the church is lighted up by three small windows on the south side, and one at the east end. It is dedicated to St. Giles, and is a donative.

In addition to the account already given of Croxden Abbey, Mr. Nightingale observes, "that Bertram de Verdon, in 1176, gave the Cistercian monks of Aulney in Normandy, a piece of ground, Chotes or Chotene, to build an abbey of their order." In three years this was removed to Croxden;* where all the family of the Verdons were afterwards buried, as was also the heart of king John.† The remains of this abbey are in a narrow valley, watered by a small rivulet, which supplied a mill formerly in the precincts. The west end of the church, the south wall transept, part of the cloister, the outer walls of the chapter house, and some parts of the offices, may still be traced; the whole in a style of architecture corresponding with the date of its foundation;‡ the windows being lancet shaped, and the capitals of the columns foliated. In the garden of one of the farm houses is still preserved a stone cross, about three feet in length, ending in foliage at the points, and having a crucifix rudely sculptured on one side, and a virgin, which is now scarcely distinguishable, on the other. It was found near the east end of the church, and though the sculpture, in most places, is almost obliterated, yet traces of gilding were observable, in one or two places, when it was first discovered. The permanency of this kind of stone gilding is truly astonishing. On a stone chimney-piece, in Crosby Hall, *Crosby Square*, Bishopgate Street, London, now occupied by the extensive warehouses of Messrs Holmes and Hall,§ there are still visible considerable portions of gilding. The ignorant curiosity of the workmen demolished many parts of it, till their depredations were discovered, and prevented by the son of their employer. *Crosby Hall* or *Crosby House*, was built by Sir John Crosbie, who was sheriff in 1470. It is, therefore not so old as Croxden abbey, by nearly three hundred years.

The parish church, or *chapel*, of Croxden, is a small building, whose style of architecture indicates its age to be coeval with the foundation of the abbey; It is valued at £12 in the king's books; and its patron is the Earl of Macclesfield, to whom the estate belongs. The abbey, at the rapacious dissolution, was valued at £90. 5s. 11d. || per annum. It is said, that Cromwell the hypocrite, destroyed this abbey. Several coffins having no inscriptions have been dug up here.

Near this place are two hamlets named *Upper* and *Lower Tean*, both in the parish of *Checkley*. Between these two hamlets is a spring of a somewhat singular character; it is denominated *the*

* Bishop Turner's Not. 498. Mag. Brit. 148, in Gough's Camden, vol. ii. p. 515.

† This singularly unfortunate, and it must be confessed, in many respects, much misrepresented king, died at *Swinshead Abbey*, in Lincolnshire; his body was interred at Worcester; his bowels in Croxden Abbey church, in Leicestershire, the abbot being his physician; and his heart here at Croxden. (See Nichol's History of Leicestershire, vol. ii. p. 149, and Gough's Camden, vol. ii. 515.) This was certainly making the most of the poor fallen monarch! Perhaps the most precious portion of his relics would be the hand that signed Magna Charta. Croxden may be welcome to the heart, which reluctantly, perhaps never cheerfully, consented to the glorious deed.

‡ Dr. Richard Rawlinson had the foundation charter of this abbey in his possession; Dr. Rawlinson died in 1755.

§ The name of this latter gentleman it becomes the writer of this never to repeat, or to write, but with a feeling of the most sincere and ardent respect and esteem.

|| According to Dugdale. Speed says, £103. 6s. 5d.

well in the wall, as it rises under a rock. It is said, but with what truth, may fairly be disputed, that this “unaccountable spring throws out, all the year round, except in July and August, small bones, of different sorts, like those of sparrows, or small chickens.”* *Tean* has an extensive rope manufactory.

SHELTON.

This place is not of great extent, and although included with the township of Hanley, in its population &c. being contiguous, and appearing as a continuation is a distinct village and township. Mr. Pitt observes that “it contains some of the oldest and most respectable manufacturers. Very excellent porcelain, little inferior to that of the east, has long been manufactured here, and it possesses the advantages of a public wharf upon the Trent and Mersey navigation, which passes this place;” and as Mr. Nightingale remarks, the village of *Shelton*, lying at a considerable distance to the north of Newcastle-under-Lyme, gave birth to *Elijah Fenton*, a celebrated poet of the last century. “He was descended from an ancient family, whose estate was very considerable; and was the youngest of eleven children. It was the intention of his friends, that he should take orders; but having, while at Cambridge, embraced principles inimical to government, he became disqualified for the church, by refusing the necessary oaths. Having, therefore, been driven out a commoner of nature, excluded from the regular modes of profit and prosperity, and reduced to pick up an uncertain livelihood, he engaged himself as usher to Mr. Bonwicke, a celebrated schoolmaster at Headley in Surrey, in which situation, however, he only remained for a short time, having been appointed secretary to the Earl of Orrery, who likewise placed his only son Lord Boyle under his tuition. This young nobleman entertained a degree of friendship for the young poet, almost amounting to veneration, insomuch, that after his decease he could scarcely speak of him without tears. After this he for some time kept a school for himself at Sevenoaks in Kent, which he brought into reputation, but was persuaded by Mr. St. John, with promises of a more honourable employment to relinquish it. By the recommendation of Mr. Pope, he for some time was placed in a situation, which held out to him the most flattering prospects. This was to assist Mr. Craggs, the secretary of state, in the studies which he found necessary to supply the deficiencies of his education. The death of that statesman, however, very shortly subsequent to his introduction, blasted the hopes which he might otherwise have entertained. Pope again proved serviceable to his friend, by recommending him to conduct the education of the eldest son of Lady Trumbal, at whose seat, in the neighbourhood of East Hamstead, Berkshire, he died on the thirteenth of July, 1730.

* England's Gazetteer, second Edition, 1778, vol. ii, art. *Tean*.

The death of Fenton was a subject of deep regret among all men of taste; even his brother bards greatly lamented him, being one of the few devoted to the muses, who have been fortunate enough to escape the malignant look of envy, unhappily too often the foible of poets. Pope, in particular, was severely affected by the event, and honoured him with the following epitaph.

"This modest stone, what few vain mortals boast,
May truly say, here lies an honest man,
A poet, blest beyond a poet's fate,
Whom heaven kept sacred from the proud and great.
Foe to loud praise, and friend to learned ease,
Content with science in the vale of peace;
Calmly he look'd on either life, and here
Saw nothing to regret, or there to fear;
From Nature's temperate feast rose satisfied,
Thank'd heaven that he had lived, that he had died."

The first publication by Mr. Fenton, which made its appearance in the year 1709, was a volume of poems entitled, "Oxford and Cambridge Verses." In 1717 a volume of his own was produced, and in 1723 his tragedy of *Mariamne*,* having received the approbation of the managers, was performed with great applause at one of the London theatres. This piece is founded on the story related of that lady in the third volume of the *Spectator*, which the ingenious writer had collected from *Josephus*. He wrote, besides, a life of *Milton*, of which *Dr. Johnson* speaks in terms of high commendation, and also edited a fine edition of the works of *Waller*, accompanied with very valuable notes by himself. Such of Fenton's poems as were not published in the last edition of his works, are preserved in "*Nichol's Select Collection*," given to the public in 1780.

The personal appearance and moral character of Fenton, as well as his merits as a poet, are thus given by *Dr. Johnson*, with that force and discrimination for which his name is so justly celebrated:

"Fenton was tall and bulky, inclined to corpulence, which he did not lessen by much exercise, for he was very sluggish and sedentary, rose late, and when he had risen, sat down to his books or papers. A woman, that once waited on him in a lodging, told him, as she said, that he would 'lie a-bed and be fed with a spoon.' This, however, was not the worst that might have been prognosticated; for Pope says, in his letters, that he died of indolence, but his immediate distemper was the gout. Of his morals and conversation, the account is uniform; he was never named but with praise and fondness, as a man in the highest degree amiable and excellent. Such was the character given him by the *Earl of Orrery*, his pupil; such is the testimony of Pope; and such were the suffrages of all who could boast of his acquaintance."

By a former writer of his life, a story is told which ought not to be forgotten.

* *Dr. Johnson* tells us, that when shewn to *Cibber*, it was rejected by him with the additional insolence of advising Fenton to engage himself in some employment of honest labour, which he never could hope for from his poetry. When the play was acted at the other house, however, *Cibber's* opinion was confuted by the approbation of the public.

“ He used, in the latter part of his time, to pay his relations in the country a yearly visit. At an entertainment made for the family by an elder brother, he observed that one of his sisters, who had married unfortunately, was absent; and found, upon enquiry, that distress had made her thought unworthy of invitation. As she was at no great distance, he refused to sit at table till she was called; and when she had taken her place, was careful to shew her particular attention.”

His collection of poems is now to be considered. The ode to the *Sun* is written upon a common plan, without uncommon sentiments; but its greatest fault is its length. No poem should be long of which the purpose is only to strike the fancy, without enlightening the understanding by precept, ratiocination, or narrative. A blaze first pleases, and then tires the sight.

Of Florelia it is sufficient to say, that it is an occasional pastoral, which implies something neither natural nor artificial, neither comic nor serious.

The next ode is irregular, and therefore defective. As the sentiments are pious, they cannot easily be new; for what can be added to topics on which successive ages have been employed?

Of the *Paraphrase on Isaiah*, nothing very favourable can be said. Sublime and solemn praise gains little by a change to blank verse; and the paraphrast has deserted his original, by admitting images not Asiatic, at least not Judaical:

————— Returning peace,
Dove-eyed, and rob'd in white.

Of his petty poems some are very trifling, without any thing to be praised, either in the thought or expression; he is unlucky in his competitions; he tells the same idle tale with Congreve, and does not tell it so well. He translates from Ovid the same epistle as Pope; but I am afraid not with equal happiness.

Thomas Allen, a celebrated mathematician of the sixteenth century, according to Mr. Esdeswicke, was born at Bucknall, an adjoining village, in 1542.* The same author informs us he was descended from Alanus de Buckenhall, who lived in the time of Edward II.; but few particulars are known concerning his more immediate progenitors. Where he received the rudiments of his education is uncertain; but in 1561, we find him admitted a scholar of Trinity College, Oxford. In 1567, he took his degrees of Master of Arts, and three years subsequent quitted the University, and retired to Glosterhall, where he continued his studies with great assiduity, and became celebrated for his knowledge as an antiquary and philosopher, particularly in the science of geometry. Upon the invitation of Henry, Earl of Northumberland, the Mæcenas of the mathematicians of his age, he resided for some time at that nobleman's house, a circumstance which was the means of introducing him to several of the first mathematical characters at that time in England. Robert, Earl of Leicester, evinced a particular attachment to our author, and even offered him a bishopric; but his love of ease and retirement predominated over his ambition. His great knowledge of mathematics, as not unfrequently happened at that period, drew upon him the suspicions of the ignorant and vulgar, that he was a magician or

* In this opinion, Dr. Plot would seem to agree; but Fuller, Wood, and Camden, say he was a native of Utttoxeter.

conjurer. Accordingly the author of a work, entitled "Leicester Commonwealth," openly accused him of using the art of figuring to further his patron's schemes, to bring about a match between himself and Queen Elizabeth. The absurdity of the accusation is manifest; but, waving this, it is certain that the Earl placed so much confidence in his talents and secrecy, that no political transactions of moment occurred in which he did not solicit his advice. Having lived to a great age in philosophic retirement, he died at Glosterhall, in 1632.

That the character of Allen stood very high, is clear from the sentiments expressed concerning him, by several contemporary and succeeding writers.

Mr. Selden says, "he was a man of the most extensive learning and consummate judgment, the brightest ornament of the University of Oxford." Camden calls him, "skilled in most of the best arts and sciences;" and Mr. Burton, who wrote his funeral sermon, styles him "not only the Coryphæus, but the very soul and sun of all the mathematicians of his time." He was curious and indefatigable in collecting scattered manuscripts, in different departments of science, which are frequently quoted by other authors, and mentioned as having been deposited in the Bibliotheca Alleniana.*

TAMWORTH.

TAMWORTH is very pleasantly situated, the south side of the town being bordered with meadows, and the north, by a fertile, well-enclosed, country. Leland particularly notices it, which he thus describes:—"The towne of Tamworth, having a celebrate market, is of ancient memory, and after the Danes had razed and defaced it, Ethelthleda, lady of the Merches, and sister of King Edward, sen. repayred it. The towne, in respect of the bottom, where Tame and Ancre runne, is sett on the declive of a small hill, and the principall street and buildings of it lie by west and east.

"The north part and side of the principal street is in Staffordshire, and on this side is the paroch-church of Tamworth. The south side, and part of this street, lying towards the right ripe of Anker, is in Warwickshire, and the castle also, which standeth at the very point of the confluence of Anker and Tame. I saw but three notable things, the paroch-church, the castle, and the bridge.

"The Castle of Tamworth standeth on a meetly high ground, on the southe part of the towne, hard upon the ripe of Anker at the mouth of it. The Marmions, Freviles, and Ferrers, have been lords of it since the Conquest."†

* Plot's Hist. Staff. p. 276. Gent. Biog. Dict.

† Itinerary, Vol. IV. p. 189.

In addition to what we have already noticed it is remarked, that "The architecture of the castle now remaining seems to have been of various periods. The hall is large, but exceedingly rude and comfortless. This, and some other parts, appear of a very ancient date. The rooms and stair-cases are most of them irregular and uncouth; yet, by Leland's account, it seems the greater part was built since his time. 'The base-court,' says he, 'and the great ward of the castle, is clean decayed, and the wall fallen downe, and therein be now but houses of office of noe notable building. The Dungeon-hill yet standeth, and a great round tower of stone, wherein Mr. Ferrers dwelleth, and now repaireth it.* Such was its state in Henry VIII.'s time.

"There are two noble rooms, comparatively modern, fitted up with oak wainscot, and round the cornice of the largest, the arms of the family, impaling every match to the earliest periods. From the windows of this room, are pleasing and rich views over the river (which runs at the foot of the Castle-mount,) to the meadows and woodlands, where formerly the park was. Lord Leicester, it is said, once had thoughts of making this castle his residence; and, for that purpose, had Wyatt down to survey it; but finding, from the antiquity of the greater part of the building, and the neglect of inhabitation here for nearly a century, the scheme not very practicable, he gave it up: it is still, however, kept in external repair.

"From the Castle leads is a noble, circular, view of a rich woodland country in Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, and Derbyshire. Canwell, the elegant new mansion of Sir Robert Lawley, Bart. appears to great advantage from hence.†"

Mr. Pitt truly remarks, that "The beauty of the situation of Tamworth is seen from the Castle to great advantage, varied with rich meadows, two bridges over the Tame and the Anker, and rivers wandering picturesquely along the country. Michael Drayton, born on the banks of the Anker, thus celebrates that river and his mistress:—

"Clear Anker, on whose silver-sanded shore,
My soul-shrin'd saint, my fair idea lies:
A blessed brook, whose milk-white swans adore
Thy chrystal stream, refined by her eyes;
Where sweet myrrh-breathing zephyr in the spring,
Gently distils his nectar-dropping showers;
Where nightingales in Arden sit and sing,
Amongst the dainty dew-impearled flowers.

* * * *

Fair Arden! thou my Tempe art alone;
And thou, sweet Anker! art my Helicon."

Having recently given an account of this town, in our History and Topography of Warwickshire, of which county, with that of Staffordshire, it forms an almost equal portion. We subjoin the following description, as given in that work:

Tamworth is almost equally divided by the rivers Tame and Anker; the western half of

* Leland's Itinerary Vol. IV. p. 161.

† Shaw's Hist. and Antiq. of Staff. Vol. I. p. 419—20.

the town and the church standing in Staffordshire, and the eastern part in Warwickshire. Each part sends a member to Parliament. This borough and market town is pleasantly situated on a rising ground, at the conflux of these rivers, and near the great navigable canal. It is 8 miles S. E. of Lichfield, and 114 from London. In 1811, the eastern or Warwickshire portion contained three hundred and eighteen houses inhabited, six uninhabited, and the total population was one thousand six hundred and sixty four. In 1821, it contained three hundred and ninety three houses and one thousand nine hundred and thirty eight inhabitants. The western or Staffordshire portion of the town, in 1821, contained three hundred and twenty six houses and one thousand six hundred and thirty six inhabitants. In 1826, the Warwickshire portion of the borough was valued at £1762, and its proportion to the county rate was £7. 6s. 10d. The annual value of the Castle, &c. was estimated at £446, and its proportion to the county rate was £1. 17s. 2d.

Tamworth is considered one of the oldest towns in each of the counties of which it forms so interesting a portion, and considerable celebrity and interest is attached to the earliest period of its history, not only from its being the residence of the powerful and warlike Offa, from whence he granted charters of lands free of taxation, in perpetuity to the churches of St. Peter and St. Mary, at Worcester, but it continued in the hands of others of the Mercian Kings, until invaded by the Danes. Burhed, the last of the Mercian Kings, being intimidated, fled to Rome about the year 874. Alfred succeeded to the throne, but it was at an unfavourable period, for his kingdom was overrun by the Northmen, and although Tamworth had been strongly fortified, its palaces was destroyed, and continued in ruins until restored by Ethelfleda, the daughter of Alfred, in 914. She died in 918 or 919, but not without having maintained and made a noble resistance against the Danes, and driving them from the territories they had usurped in this quarter. They, however, continued to make incursions in the midland counties until subdued by Athelstan, who was succeeded in 941 by his brother Edmund, then only eighteen years of age. He was shortly after overpowered by Anlaf, who headed the Northerns, and obtained victories over Edmund, at Tamworth and Leicester, and after surrendered to him that portion of England, north of Watling-street, on condition that the survivor should become sole possessor of the whole. Anlaf dying the year following, Edmund again became possessor of Northumbria.

A royal mint, it appears, was established at Tamworth, after its seat of regal power had been discontinued, and some specimens of its coins are still to be met with. There was also a convent here founded by St. Editha.

Some interesting lithographic views of Tamworth and its principal buildings have recently been drawn by Mr. Hamel, and published, with descriptions. The north view is taken from the improved Gun-gate approach to the town, where the celebrated Abbey of St. Modwena was erected. It was, at one period, the manor and residence of the Zouches, but now converted into attractive sources of health, in valuable baths for the invalid. The remains of Spittall Chapel, formerly a chapel of ease to Tamworth, now transposed into a cottage and barn, stand near this entrance of the town; on the left is the inconsiderable village of Perry-croft; the road here was crossed by the king's dyke or fosse, which formed the boundary of the castle. The moat-house on the north bank of the Tame, Mr. Hamel states, "was built about the time

of Elizabeth, by the Comberfords, now the residence of Wm. Tongue, Esq. The Moat-house has since been in the possession of the families of Fox, Boothby, Littleton, Wolferstan, and Abney. In 1767, it was purchased by the Marquess Townshend, and inhabited by John Willington, Esq., subsequently by the late marquess. At his death, it passed into the hands of Robert Woody, M. D. and was fitted up for the reception of insane patients. Under the auspices of Mrs. Woody, it still affords to the unfortunate victim of insanity, a retired and most eligible place of refuge.

The castle, built upon an artificial mount, forms the most interesting feature of antiquity of the place, and is said to have been originally connected with the *Dungeon* of the Lady Ethelfleda. The Marmions possessed it till the twentieth of Edward I., from them it passed to William Mortein, on his marriage to the daughter and co-heir of the Marmions. It afterwards came into the Frevile family,* and subsequently to that of the Ferrers, in the reign of Henry VI. The Comptons afterwards succeeded to it. The present proprietor is George Marquess Townsend, in right of Lady C. Compton, Baroness de Ferrers, daughter of the Earl of Northampton. Its present respectable inhabitant is Thomas Brammall, Esq.

The church, which is large and handsome, is rich in the architectural taste of different and distant periods. It was made collegiate on the arrival of the Marmions, and remained under that designation until the reign of Edward VI. It contains several handsome monuments, and has a massive tower, to which it has the peculiarity of having a double stair-case, the roof of the one being the floor of the other, and each having a separate entrance and exit.

Of the church, Mr. Hamel states, that "in the year 1809, this noble building underwent a complete repair, at the expence of more than £4000; part of which was liquidated by the receipts of an oratorio, instituted for that purpose. Among other improvements, a fine-toned choir instrument was added to the former organ. In removing the old pews, the tessellated pavement was found, which now forms the floor between the railing and the altar. Although this church is capable of containing three thousand persons, its revenue is lamentably small, and utterly inadequate as a remuneration for the heavy duties ordinarily imposed upon its minister. One sermon on the Sunday is alone required of him. Three services, however, are regularly performed by the present vicar, the Rev. Francis Blick, whose zeal for the welfare of the church is only equalled by his exemplary conduct as a pastor, and by the glowing excellencies and beneficence of his private character."

Tamworth is large and well built, with two bridges over the river. In the town are places of worship for dissenters, and an hospital founded by Guy the bookseller, who also founded the hospital, bearing his own name, in London. It also contains a Free Grammar School,—the present one in Gun-gate was erected in 1667; the original school was endowed by Queen Elizabeth in 1558; she granted an annual stipend to the master; various annuities have sub-

* Baldwin de Frevile, one of Alexander's descendants, in the first of Richard II. on account of the tenure of this Castle, claimed the office of Royal Champion, and to do the service appertaining, viz. on the day of the Coronation to ride completely armed upon a barbed horse, into Westminster Hall, and there to challenge the combat against any who would gainsay the king's title. But this office was adjudged to Sir James Dymoke, to whom the Manor of Scrivelby, which had also been held by Robert de Marmion, had descended by another of the co-heiresses of Philip de Marmion, and in that family the office still continues.

sequently been added to it. Mr Hamel remarks, that "the grammar school of Tamworth was once an institution of celebrity. Many of the neighbouring gentlemen were educated there. It had, however, fallen to decay, until the Rev. T. P. Lammin, its present master, was elected in 1827, by the corporation, who are the trustees. Under his auspices, the school bids fair to recover its ancient reputation and utility. His zealous exertions have already been signally rewarded by the public confidence. The school is free only to boys resident in the borough. The exterior of the building has acquired from age a sombre aspect; but within it is light and spacious. The master's desk is surmounted by a tablet inscribed with the names of those who contributed to the expence of its erection. The subscription amounted to £158. 16s. 6d. Mr. Lammin has put up a corresponding memorial of the contributions raised by his exertions for its repair in 1827. The amount of this was £169. 7s. 8d." A National School has also been founded by Sir Robert Peel. Tamworth is governed by two bailiffs (one for each county) twenty four burgesses, a town clerk (one of the burgesses), &c. with a high steward, recorder, and under steward. The town-clerk, with the two bailiffs, have the power to call courts, being appointed serjeants at mace, can be justices of the peace in the borough, keep a three weeks court of record, and a court leet twice a year, with the superior and inferior officers, &c. It was first incorporated by Queen Elizabeth. The number of voters for the two members of Parliament for the borough are limited to the number of two hundred and sixty three, composed of inhabitants, being housekeepers, paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms. The returning officers are the bailiffs. This town has a considerable manufacture of narrow cloths, also of flax and spinning yarn. Tanning and calico printing are the principal trades carried on. Sir Robert Peel, who purchased the Marquis of Bath's share in this borough (being the joint property of George Marquess Townshend, and the Marquis of Bath), established some extensive manufactories in this district. Here are two banking-houses. The market is held on Tuesdays. There are occasional races in the Calford meadow. Fairs, May 4, July 26, and October 24.

In the King's Dyke, a large trench so called, but now partly filled up, the bones of men and horses, and implements of war, have been dug up; and several charters are dated from the royal seat at Tamworth, where Ethelfleda (the excellent lady of the Mercians), the daughter of King Alfred, died in 918. Very little is known of this town immediately after the conquest. Dugdale remarks, that the Warwickshire part of the town "answered two marks in aid in the fifteenth of Henry II. and in the twenty-first of Henry III. four pounds sixteen shillings for the ferm thereof." The town was an ancient demesne of the crown, and continued in the hands of the king till the close of the reign of Henry III. at which period it was let to Philip Marmion, during his life, and afterwards reverted to the crown. The Warwickshire portion was granted to the inhabitants of the borough, by Edward II.

At about four miles distance from the town, is Pooley-hall, the seat of Colonel Finch. It appears that this estate formed part of those belonging to the Marmions of Tamworth Castle, and after passing through several intermediate hands, came into the family of Cockain, in the latter part of the fourteenth century. Mr. Brewer, in his history of this county, states, that it is ascertained that Sir John Cockain resided at Pooley in the reign of Henry IV. and his descendants for many generations, made this their principal seat. The present mansion was erected

by Sir Thomas Cockain, in the time of Henry VIII. and is a fine irregular building, varying in character between the embattled style of the previous troubled and suspicious ages, and the open amplitude of construction then first growing into practice.

UTTOXETER.

UTTOXETER, a market town and parish in Totmanslow hundred, is delightfully and healthily situated on a gentle eminence, skirting the western bank of the river Dove, at the distance of six miles from Abbot's Bromley, fourteen from Stafford, and one hundred and thirty five north west of London. In 1821, it contained nine hundred and twenty six houses, and four thousand six hundred and fifty eight inhabitants; six hundred and seventy-seven families, the greater part of whom were then employed in manufactories, and in various branches of trade. A considerable portion of the former is in the different branches of ironmongery, from the town being almost encompassed with extensive forges; the trade having greatly encreased for several years past, owing to the facility of canal navigation, and the communication it embraces with the Trent, the Avon, the port of London, and the eastern and western oceans. Fairs, February 9, April 15, May 6, June 3, July 5 and 31, September 1 and 20, November 11 and 27. The town is remarkable for instances of the longevity of its inhabitants, and is in itself a place of great antiquity, as it is said to have been a British settlement, even before the Roman invasion.

The counties of Stafford and Derby are connected here by a noble stone bridge, thrown over the river Dove. The tower has been much enlarged and improved, and, indeed, almost rebuilt, from having formerly sustained considerable injury from fire. It is now commodious, large, and well built; its population has nearly doubled within the last twenty years. The market is on Wednesday, and is noted for its abundant supply of cheese, butter, hogs, corn, and all kinds of provisions. The market-house is nearly in the centre of the town, and has several good streets branching from it. The supply of agricultural produce to this town is very great, arising from the fertile and luxuriant meadows and pasture lands, which are said to equal any part of England. Mr. Pitt remarks, that "the inhabitants of Uttoxeter and its vicinity, derive much of their opulence from the fertile pastures and meadows on the banks of the Dove. They include many hundred acres of land, impregnated with a fertilizing sediment of mud and calcareous earth, deposited from time to time by the inundations of the river. The herbage is very fine, without any intermixture of rushes or other aquatic plants, and principally consists of grasses of the common sort.

The plain on the Staffordshire bank of the Dove, opposite Uttoxeter, is nearly a mile in breadth, and comprises several thousand acres of luxuriant pasturage for black cattle, sheep, and a few horses. A very small proportion of this extensive space is fenced in for hay, in consequence of the uncertainty and suddenness of the inundations of the Dove; for a great fall of rain, or the sudden thaw of snow in the Moorlands, causes a rapid and resistless flood, which soon overflows the banks of the river, and covers the level fields to a great extent; insomuch, that it requires much vigilance in the proprietors of flocks and herds to preserve them from drowning. The graziers, on an average, pay two pounds an acre for this excellent pasturage.

The parish church is an ancient edifice, but not remarkable for any peculiar interior embellishments, or for its general structure. There are several meeting-houses for Dissenters, and the Quakers and Methodists are very numerous and respectable here. There is also a free school, founded and endowed by the celebrated Thomas Allen, a great mathematician, who, according to Fuller and Camden, was born here. The late highly distinguished *Admiral, Lord Gardner*, was also born in this place, on the 12th April, 1742. Mr. Nightingale gives the following account of him:—

“He was the eighth son of Lieutenant-colonel Gardner, of the eleventh regiment of dragoons. Having, at an early period, shewn a strong bias towards the naval service, he was rated, when fourteen years old, as a midshipman, on board the *Medway*, of sixty guns, then under the immediate orders of Captain Sir Peter Denis, an officer of distinguished merit. In this vessel, Mr. Gardner remained for two years, during which time he was present in an action, in which the *Duc d'Aquitaine* French ship of the line was taken. From the *Medway*, our young midshipman afterwards accompanied his captain, first on board the *Namur*, and afterwards into the *Dorsetshire*. In the former, he served under Admiral Hawke, during the expedition against *Rochfort*; and, while on board the latter, was present at the capture of the *Raisonable*, on which occasion, Captain Denis put in practice the plan now adopted by the new school, of not firing a single ball till within a few yards of the enemy's ship. He likewise bore a share in the general engagement, which took place off *Belleisle*, in 1769, between the British and French fleets, commanded by Sir Edward Hawke, and the Marshal de Conflans. Mr. Gardner, having now being five years in constant service, was appointed Lieutenant on board of the *Bellona*, after the customary examinations. In this station, he distinguished himself at the capture of *Le Courageux*, whereupon he was raised to the rank of master and commander, and appointed to the *Raven* of sixteen guns. After the lapse of four years, he was made Post in the *Preston* of fifty guns, which had been fitted out as the flag ship of Rear-admiral Parry, whom he accompanied to *Port Royal*, in *Jamaica*. During the whole time of his being stationed here, Great Britain was at peace with all the nations of Europe; so that the only circumstance which occurred, requiring notice in this sketch, was his marriage with *Susannah Hyde*, only daughter of *Francis Oale, Esq.* a planter in *Liquania*. This lady having soon brought him a numerous family, and being ambitious himself of rising in the service, he made every effort to obtain an appointment as soon as the American contest began. Accordingly, he was nominated to the command of the *Maidstone* frigate, in which he sailed for the *West Indies* early in 1778; and in the course of that year, was so fortunate as to make a rich capture on the coast of *America*. On the fourth of November, he fell in with the *Lion*, a French man-of-war, having on board

fifteen hundred hogsheads of tobacco, and after a severe action, compelled her to surrender. With this prize, he sailed for Antigua; and was, soon after his arrival, promoted by Admiral Byron to the command of the *Sultan* of seventy-four guns. In the drawn battle, which was fought some time subsequent with the French fleet, under Count de Estaing, off the island of Grenada, Captain Gardner led the van, and greatly distinguished himself. His ship, however, suffered so much, that he was ordered to Jamaica, from whence he shortly after sailed for England, when the *Sultan* was discharged. He did not, however, remain long out of commission, having been appointed to the *Duke* in the course of a few months, with which ship he sailed to join the fleet in the West Indies, then under the orders of Sir George Rodney, and was fortunate enough to arrive in time to participate in the glorious victory of the twelfth of April, 1782. On that memorable day, his ship was the first to break through the enemy's line of battle, according to the new plan of attack, suggested by Mr. Clerke, of Eldon, and then, for the first time, put in practice. At one period of this action, the *Duke*, in conjunction with the *Formidable* and *Namur*, had to sustain the fire of eleven of the enemy's ships. Soon after this triumph, the American war terminated, and peace continued for several years to shed her benignant influence over the several nations of Europe. During this period, Captain Gardner was employed in different capacities. For some time, he acted as Commodore on the Jamaica station, and in 1790, was appointed a lord of the Admiralty, when he likewise obtained a seat in Parliament.

In the year 1793, having been raised to the rank of Rear-admiral of the Blue, he hoisted his flag on board the *Queen*, of ninety-eight guns, in which he sailed as commander-in-chief to the Leeward islands. Soon after this event, finding the disputes between the republicans and royalists in the colony of Martinico to run very high, and being earnestly pressed by the latter to effect a descent on the island, accordingly Major General Bruce landed with three thousand men; but that officer judged it expedient to re-embark again, almost immediately, being satisfied that the republican party was too strong to afford just hopes of success, in the royal cause. Admiral Gardner now returned to England, and the following year bore a part in the action of the first of June, under the gallant Earl Howe. On this occasion, his conduct was conspicuous in the extreme, his ship having suffered more than any other in the fleet, with the exception of the *Brunswick*. In consequence, he not only was particularly thanked by the commander-in-chief, but was appointed major-general of marines, and created a baronet of Great Britain. On the 22nd June, 1795, Sir Alan was present at the action off Port l'Orient, when the French fleet only saved itself from total destruction by a timely flight. Two years after this event, when a dangerous mutiny had broken out at Portsmouth, he manifested a degree of firmness and resolution, during that trying period, worthy of his high character as a British naval officer. From this time, he continued to serve in the channel fleet till the close of the year, 1799, when he was sent, with sixteen sail of the line, to re-inforce the fleet off Cadiz, and in the Mediterranean. Perceiving, however, that little danger was to be apprehended in these quarters he returned, with nine sail of the line, accompanied by the convoy from Lisbon. In 1800, we once more find him serving in the channel fleet; but he was soon after appointed to succeed Admiral Kingsmill, the naval commander in Ireland, being previously raised to the dignity of an Irish peer. This command he continued to hold till the year 1807, when he hoisted his flag

as Admiral of the channel fleet; which ill health, however, soon compelled him to relinquish. He died in 1810, and was buried in the abbey church of Bath, with the grandeur and solemnity due to his rank and merit.

Lord Gardner's political career was not distinguished by any circumstance of great moment. He sat in three successive parliaments. His first election took place in 1790, when he was returned one of the representatives for the town of Plymouth. In 1796, he was colleague to Mr. Fox, in the representation of Westminster. On this occasion, he was opposed by Mr. John Horne Tooke, whose wit, satire, and eloquence, were more alarming to the Admiral, than a shower of cannon balls from an enemy's fleet. Notwithstanding this circumstance, however, he once more offered himself as a candidate for the same city, and was again successful. At this time, Mr. Fox, in addressing the electors, said, "A noble Admiral has been proposed to you. I certainly cannot boast of agreeing with him in political opinions; but whom could the electors pitch upon more worthy of their choice than the noble lord, in his private character universally respected, and a man who has served his country with a zeal, a gallantry, a spirit, and a splendour, that will reflect upon him immortal honour?"* This place also gave birth to Sir Simon Degge, an antiquary principally known for his M. S. notes on Plott's Natural History of Staffordshire. He died at the advanced age of ninety-two.†

LEEK.

THIS principal market town and parish, in *Totmanslow hundred*, is situated thirteen miles south-east from Macclesfield, and one hundred and fifty-five from London, by Lichfield, standing on a pleasant eminence near the river Churnet. In 1817, it contained thirteen streets and lanes; the former, well paved and clean, are graced by many handsome and extensive shops, and the residences of the silk manufacturers and professional gentleman are extremely elegant. The population in 1811, appears to have been as follows:—Four thousand one hundred and eighty-six inhabitants, (*viz.*) one thousand nine hundred and twelve males, and two thousand two hundred and seventy-four females, of which number two thousand six hundred and eleven were returned as being employed in trade and manufactures, of the latter, particularly in ribbons, silk, twist, and buttons. The number of houses were stated at eight hundred and sixty-seven, but Mr. Nightingale believes them to far exceed that number. Mr. Pitt, in 1817, states, that "this town, including Leek-Frith township, contained nine hundred and fifty-four

* Imperial and County Annual Register, for 1810.

† Gough's Camden, II. p. 516.

houses; nine hundred and seventy-two families; two thousand and twenty-three males; two thousand three hundred and ninety females; total inhabitants, four thousand four hundred and thirteen." He also says, that "about two-thirds of the men, women, and children in Leek, are employed in various branches of the silk manufacture, which consist, principally, of shawls, handkerchiefs, ribbons, ferrets, twist, and sewing silks. In 1821, Capper gives the population of Leek, alone, as follows, *viz.*—eight hundred and thirty-five houses, and three thousand seven hundred and three inhabitants, of whom six hundred families were chiefly employed in trade, and in the manufacture of the above-named articles. (Leek-Frith contained one hundred and forty-nine houses, and eight hundred and six inhabitants.) The town, since that period, has continued to increase considerably, notwithstanding the vast fluctuations which have subsequently taken place in the silk trade. The church, an ancient structure upon an elevated site, has a handsome square tower, with six bells; and at the south-east corner of the chancel, stand the remains of an ancient cross, about ten feet high. The tower of the church has four pinnacles, surmounted by gilt globes and vanes; its exterior is a pleasing object from various points of the surrounding country; the interior is peculiarly clean and neat. In the church are some monuments of the families of the Ansons, and the Wolselys—the burial place of the former resembles an Egyptian catacomb. The monument of Sir William Wolsely has an inscription describing his accidental death, which occurred on the 8th July, 1728, by the bursting of a mill-dam, in the neighbourhood of Langdon, from which circumstance he was drowned in his chariot: his four horses were also drowned, but the coachman providentially escaped, from being carried, by the impetuosity of the torrent, into an orchard, from whence he was taken after the flood had subsided. This melancholy accident arose from an amazing heavy rain, and violent thunder storm."

In the neighbourhood of Leek, at Blue-hills, are coal mines, whence a salt stream issues, which gives the earth a rusty colour, and mixed with an infusion of galls, produces a liquid as black as ink.

In continuation, Mr. Nightingale notices, that "This town is remarkable also for the following singular circumstance:—By the intervention of craggy mountains, at a considerable distance westward of the town, the sun sets twice in the same evening, at a certain time of the year; for after it sets behind the top of the mountain, it breaks out again on the northern side of it, which is steep, before it reaches the horizon in its fall: so that, within a very few miles, the inhabitants have the *rising sun* when he has, in fact, past his meridian."

"The manor was the estate of one Algarus Ca, before the Conquest; and in the Conqueror's hands, *Reg.* 20; but it was, sixth Stephen, the estate of Ranulph de Gernois, the fourth Earl of Chester, a great man in King Stephen's time, in whose reign, Anno Dom. 1153, he died, being poisoned, at it was suspected, by William Peverell and others. His wife Maud, daughter of Robert, Earl of Gloucester, base son of King Henry I. was the foundress of *Repton Priory*, in Derbyshire, and, surviving her husband, in the thirty-second of Henry II. held the lordship, *Wadington*, in dowry.* Ranulph was a person of singular piety in his days; and, among many other benefactions, to divers monasteries in several counties, as to the nuns of

* See the Topographer, Vol. II. p. 256.

Chester, monks of Geroudon, in Leicestershire, &c. he gave tythes of his mill in this place to the monks of St. Werberge, at Chester. His heir and successor in his earldom was Hugh, surnamed Kivilock, a town in Powis, in Merionethshire, where he was born. He died at his seat in this town, in the year 1181, twenty-seventh of Henry II. and was succeeded by Ranulph, his son and heir, who gave this manor to the monks of the abbey Dieu le Creysè, adjoining.*

That the Romans made frequent incursions into these parts is evident, from various concurring circumstances; and that the neighbourhood of Leek, in particular, has been the scene of some signal action, fought between the Britons and their invaders, is clear, from the circumstance of several pieces of Roman and British arms having been, from time to time, discovered in its immediate vicinity. Dr. Plott,† speaking of the manner in which the Britons used to head their arrows, writes thus: “Nor did the Britons only head their arrows with flint, but also their mataræ, or British darts, which were thrown by those that fought in Essedis,‡ whereof, I guess, this is one I had given me, found near *Leek*, by my worthy friend, Mr. Thomas, Gent. curiously jagged at the edges, with such like teeth as a sickle,¶ and otherwise wrought upon the flat, by which we may conclude, not only that these arrow and spear heads are all artificial, whatever is pretended, but also that they had anciently some way of working flints, by the tool, which may be seen by the marks, as well as they had of the Egyptian porphyry.” Whatever truth there may be in this conjecture, it is enough for our present purpose to shew, as we have just remarked, that these warlike instruments, found in this part, prove the extent of the Roman invasion, into these remote districts of the kingdom; and the reluctance with which the ab-original inhabitants of these islands yielded to the power of their invaders.

This town gave birth to the founder of the earldom of Macclesfield. The family was founded by THOMAS PARKER, the person of whom we now proceed to give some account. He was the son of Thomas Parker, an attorney of this place. The name was originally written Le Parker, as it is evident from our records. “William le Parker, in 1271,|| had a grant of free warren in all his lands in Eccles, Lesingham, Hapesburg, Brumsted, and Shaleham, in the county of Norfolk. Thomas Parker§ was seated at Bulwel, and was a person of such ample possessions, that in the reign of Richard II. he married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Adam de Gotham, son of Thomas de Gotham, of *Lees*, son of Roger de Gotham of *Lees*, near *Norton*, in the county of Derby, of which lordship he was also owner, and now retains the name of Norton Lees. He had, by the same Elizabeth, three sons: Robert, who continued the line; Thomas, of *Norton Lees*, who had an only daughter, married to Thomas Moore, of *Green Hill*; and William, seated at *Shirland*, in Derbyshire.”

Robert Parker, his eldest son, was seated at *Norton Lees*, and, with his younger brother William, was certified, in twelfth of Henry VI., among the gentlemen of the county of Derby; ** who then, pursuant to an act of Parliament, made oath for the observance of the laws, for themselves and retainers.

* Magna Brit. Vol. V. p. 99.

† P. 396, 397.

‡ C. Jul. Cæsaris Commentarior de bello

Gallico, lib. 4.

¶ Dr. Plott has given a drawing of this, Tab. xxxiii. Fig. 2.

|| Cart. 56.

Hen. III. p. 1.

§ Ex Stemmate, and visit of Derbyshire, 1611.

** Fuller's Worthies, in

Derbyshire:

Robert, having married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of John Birley, of *Barnes*, had issue several children, of whom the eldest son, John Parker, of *Norton Lees*, was of full age in the twelfth of Henry VI.; for he, also, being written of *Norton*,* made oath, with his father, for the observation of the laws. This John, married Ellen, daughter of Roger North, of Walksingham, in Nottinghamshire, ancestor to the present Earl of Guilford, by whom he had issue five sons, and four daughters: John Parker, of *Norton Lees*, the eldest, married Elizabeth, daughter to Ralph Eyre, of *Alfreton*, and had issue three sons; John, Henry, and Anthony; and a daughter, Margaret.

Henry, the fourth son of John Parker, by Hellen North, was groom of the chamber to Henry VIII., but left no issue. William the fifth was sewer to that king, and seated at *Luton*, in Bedfordshire; and married Margaret, daughter to John Wroth, of *Durane Enfield*, Middlesex, Esq. by whom he had an only daughter, Barbara, his heir, married to John Wickham, of Henfield. Thomas Parker, second brother to the said Henry and William, married —, daughter and heir of — Parker, of his own family, by whom he had issue William Parker, of *Ashborne*, in Derbyshire, who had three sons; George Parker, of *Nether-Lees*; Rowland, and Edward. George married Barbara, daughter of — *Buxley*, of Berkshire, and had issue William Parker, of *Parwich*, in Derbyshire, who died in 1631, aged seventy-eight, having wedded Elizabeth, daughter to Humphry Wilson, and had issue Thomas Parker, the father of the Chancellor, of whom we now proceed to give such an account as the scanty materials, that have been recorded of him, will afford.

“Under the direction of his father, he first applied himself to the study of the law, and grew so eminent in his profession, that he was appointed one of the council to Queen Anne; and, being called to the degree of serjeant-at-law, June 8th, 1705, the motto of the rings delivered, on that occasion, to Queen Anne, and Prince George of Denmark, was *Moribus, Armis, Legibus*. He was the same day appointed the queen’s serjeant, and had the honour of knight-hood conferred on him. He was member of Parliament for Derby, from 1705 to 1708. On March 5th, 1709—10, he was constituted Lord-chief-justice of the court of King’s Bench; and, on the demise of the queen, was one of the lords justices till the arrival of her successor from Hanover; who, on March 10th, 1715—16, created him a baron of this kingdom, by the style and title of Lord Parker, Baron of *Macclesfield*, in the county of Chester.”

Bishop Burnet† says, that he had just been one of the managers of Sacheverel’s trial, and distinguished himself in a very particular manner in it. On the death of Holt, the Lord-chief-Justice, which took place during this celebrated trial, Parker was constituted in his place; “which great promotion,” says Burnet, “seemed an evident demonstration of the Queen’s approving the prosecution; for none of the managers had treated Sacheverel so severely as he had done; yet secret whispers were pretty confidently set about, that though the Queen’s affairs put her on acting the part of one that was pleased with the scene, yet she disliked it all, and would take the first occasion to shew it.”

To return to the time of Parker’s elevation to the title of baron; nearly two years after, his

* Fuller’s Worthies in Derbyshire.

† Own Time, Vol. 2. p. 540—543.

majesty was pleased to deliver the Great Seal to his lordship, and to declare him Chancellor of Great Britain; and, on the 14th of May, 1718, two days afterwards, he was sworn at Kensington, the king present in council, and took his place at the board accordingly: he was congratulated upon his promotion, by the university of Cambridge. He was one of the lords justices whilst George I. was at Hanover; being so appointed, May 9th, 1719. On June 4th of that year, he was appointed Custos Rotulorum of the county of Worcester. On the 5th of November, 1721,* he was advanced to the dignities of Viscount Parker, of *Ewelme*, in Oxfordshire, and Earl of Macclesfield, in the county of Chester, in tail-male, to hold the dignities of lady Parker, baroness of Macclesfield, viscountess Parker of Ewelme, and countess of Macclesfield, to Elizabeth his daughter, wife of William Heathcote, Esq., and to the heirs male of her body.

This tide of honour was suddenly interrupted; for in June, 1725, his lordship was impeached on charges of corruption; was tried at the bar of the house, and unanimously pronounced guilty; in consequence of which, he was removed from his high office, and fined £30,000.† This was certainly a heavy and severe sentence; which, had this unfortunate chancellor lived and erred in later times, would, doubtless, have passed away as one of those many things which, however, our forefathers might have shuddered at them, are now as common and as obvious as the sun at noon-day.

Of this distinguished, but unfortunate Earl, Mr. Noble‡ writes as follows: "This every way distinguished character was the son of Thomas Parker, an attorney at Leek, in Staffordshire; in the chancel of which church I have read the inscription on his grave stone. He left his son about £100 per annum. He received the Great Seal May 11th,¶ 1708, which he held till January 4th, 1724—5. It was an extraordinary event, that Lord Macclesfield, one of the great ornaments of the peerage, who had so long presided at the administration of justice, should himself be arranged as a criminal; be convicted of mal-practices; and sentenced to pay a fine of £30,000 as a punishment for his offence: that a second Lord Chancellor of England should be impeached by the grand inquest of the nation, for corruption of office; and be, like his great predecessor, Lord St. Albans, found guilty of the charge. The prosecution was carried on with great virulence; and though rigid justice, indeed, demanded a severe sentence; yet party zeal and personal animosity were supposed to have had their weight in that which were passed upon him. The whole fine was exacted, and actually paid by his lordship and his son, notwithstanding the favourable disposition that was shewn, in a certain quarter, to relieve him in part by a considerable donation. It is certain, there had been gross mismanagement in the offices of the masters in Chancery, by which the suitors had been great sufferers; and it appeared that those places had been sometimes conferred upon persons who had evidently paid for them a valuable consideration. The public cry against corruption, in high stations, was loud and long; and it was not thought prudent to stay the proceedings against the supreme judge in the kingdom. The statute, on which the chancellor was impeached, had, indeed, grown into disuse; but it was still a law: a breach of it was proved, and the consequence was inevitable

* Bill signat, 8 Geo. I.

of Granger's Biog. Hist. of Eng., III. p. 90.

† Coote's Hist. of Eng. Vol. VIII. 265, et seq.

¶ It was delivered May 12th.

‡ Continuation

Lord Macclesfield was a man of learning, and a patron of it. Bishop Pierce, of Rochester, among others, owed his first introduction to preferment to his lordship's encouragement. He was also very eminent for his skill in his profession; but rather great than amiable in his general character. He was austere, and not deemed sufficiently attentive to the gentlemen of his court, to whom his manners are represented to have been harsh and ungracious, unlike the mild and complacent behaviour of his predecessor, Lord Cowper. His lordship passed the remainder of his life in a learned retirement, much devoted to the studies of religion, of which he had always been a strict and uniform observer." Such is the character of this great man, (for, after all, he was a great man,) given by a learned and able pen: but how wilful corruption—criminal malpractices—an abuse of the most exalted trusts and privileges—harsh, ungracious, and domineering dispositions, can be reconciled with a *strict* and *uniform* observance of religious duties, does not, to us, appear quite obvious. His lordship married Janet, daughter and co-heir of Charles Carrier, of *Wirkworth*, in Derbyshire; and by her had issue George the second, Earl of Macclesfield; and the lady Elizabeth before mentioned. He died * at his son's house, in Soho Square, in the sixty-sixth year of his age, on April 28th, 1732, and was buried at *Shirburn*, in Oxfordshire; esteemed for the social virtues of a husband, parent, and master, by every one to whom he stood in those relations.

His lordship's son George, the second Earl of Macclesfield, was distinguished as a scholar, and the steady promoter of literature and science. He was president of the Royal Society, and member of many foreign academies; and rendered himself otherwise remarkable, for being zealous in procuring the alteration of the style;† but, as his lordship was not born at Leek, his biography does not properly belong to this place.

The market day of Leek is on Wednesday. Fairs, February 10, April 14, May 18, June 2, July 3 and 28, October 13, November 13.

ECCLESHALL.

ECCLESHALL is a market town, and a very extensive parish, in Pirchill hundred. It is very pleasantly situate on the river Sow, seven and a half miles north west from Stafford, five from the town of Stone, and one hundred and forty-eight north west from London. In 1801, the parish contained five hundred and ninety-four houses, and three thousand four hundred and

* Park's Royal and Noble Authors, Vol. IV. p. 145.

† Sir E. Brydges, Collins's Peerage, Vol. IV. p. 194.

eighty-seven inhabitants; of whom, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-seven were males, and one thousand seven hundred and fifty females; of which number, according to the parliamentary returns, two thousand six hundred and fifty-seven were returned as being employed in agriculture, and eight hundred and thirty in trade, there being no manufactories beyond the common handicraft trades. In 1811, the whole parish of Eccleshall contained six hundred and ninety-three houses, seven hundred and eleven families; one thousand eight hundred and five males, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen females: total, three thousand six hundred and eighteen inhabitants. At the same period, the town of Eccleshall alone, contained two hundred and seventeen houses, two hundred and twenty-five families; four hundred and sixty-six males, five hundred and fifty females: total, one thousand and sixteen persons. In 1821, the town contained two hundred and eighty-five houses, and one thousand two hundred and fifty-four inhabitants; viz. six hundred and fifteen males, and six hundred and thirty-nine females; of whom sixty-three families were returned as being employed in trade, and one hundred and seventy in agriculture. The houses in this town are neatly and well built. It is supposed to be named from the Latin word *ecclesia*, the Bishop of Lichfield having formerly had a palace here. In the civil war, it was garrisoned for the king; but being afterwards taken by the parliamentary forces, it was nearly destroyed, but was afterwards re-built by Bishop Lloyd, of which more hereafter. The market day at Eccleshall is on Friday, and it has four fairs; viz. March 18, May 20, August 16, November 5. The church of Eccleshall is a vicarage, valued at £7. 14s. 4d. in the king's books. Patron, the Bishop of Lichfield.

This town is of great antiquity, and is supposed to have been founded by the Romans in the first century:—an intelligent correspondent communicated the following interesting account of it to Mr. Pitt:

“When Nero was emperor of the Roman empire, Auvigarus was king of Britain. Vespasian, then general of the Roman army in Britain, built a town in a large marsh on the banks of the river Sow, adjacent to the forest of Bloor, and ordered one of the Roman standards to be kept there. The standard represented an eagle, and the town was called Eagles'-hall. It was built about the year 60. On the southern side, at the foot of the hill, a temple was erected to Jupiter, and a flameary, or place for sacrifices. About the year of our Lord, 209, Lucius, king of Britain, gave the town the name of Eccleshall, and the temple of Jove, Hasmere. This edifice was consecrated as a Christian Church, and continued until the year 509, when Creda, a Saxon, the eleventh from Weber, the first king of Mercia, conquered the Britons, and destroyed all the Christian churches within the counties of Stafford, Gloucester, Hereford, Chester, Worcester, Oxford, Warwick, Derby, Leicester, Buckingham, Northampton, Nottingham, Lincoln, Bedford, Huntingdon, and part of Hertford. The Christians were obliged to seek an asylum in Worlsor, supposed to be Wales, till about the year 660, when Lawrence, Archbishop of Canterbury, consecrated Devine, Bishop of Lichfield, and afterwards Eccleshall, and the forest of Bloor was given to him by Penda, king of Mercia.

“Eccleshall Church was re-built in the year, 661, but was destroyed nine years afterwards by Wulfere, king of Mercia, who, in 670, while at his castle at Ulferoster, or Uttoxeter, was informed that his two sons Ulfred and Rufin, under pretence of hunting, were gone to Eccleshall to Bishop Chadd, to be baptized and instructed in the Christian religion. The king, being

instigated by his concubine Wercbode, hastened to Eccleshall, and finding his sons in the church, in divine contemplation, he slew them both with his own hand, and then destroyed the edifice. Queen Erminilda, the mother of the two royal martyrs, took their bodies, and buried them in a certain place, not far from Eccleshall, and built a monastery over them; and, from the great quantity of stones collected for this building, the place was called Stones, now Stone, a market town in this county (which we have already described). King Wulfere afterwards repented, re-built Eccleshall Church and all others which he had destroyed, and was very favourable to the Christians, but died without an heir. His brother Ethelred succeeded him in his kingdom; then Eccleshall began to flourish, and became so famous and populous, that it had five parish churches and two chapels in it. This prosperity continued nearly three centuries and a half; but a sudden reverse took place in the year 1010, when the Danes laid Eccleshall town and castle, and all its churches, in ashes by fire. It lay in ruins till 1090, when Eliás de Jantonice, prebend of Eccleshall, re-built the old church, and dedicated it to the Holy Trinity. In the year 1299, Walter Langton, Bishop of Lichfield, re-built Eccleshall Castle.*

The extensive manor here was the property of the Bishops of Lichfield; but, observes Mr. Nightingale, "How long it continued in their possession, or what changes it underwent, are not known; but in the year 1650, Camden tells us, it was sold for the sum of £14,224."

Eccleshall is distinguished principally for its castle, which was founded at a very early period, but by whom, history does not inform us. About the year 1200, however, we find Bishop Muschamp empowered by a licence from King John, "to make a park here, and embattle the castle," so that some edifice answering the description of a castellated mansion must have existed here at least some years prior to this period.

In 1310, this castle was completely re-built by Walter de Langton, Bishop of Lichfield, and Lord high Treasurer of England, who established it as the principal palace of the Bishops of Lichfield. His successors, however, having other palaces in this county at Heywood, Brewood, Beaudesert, &c. besides Lichfield House in the Strand, London, do not appear to have occupied it much till the year 1695, when the whole south front of it having been renewed by Bishop Lloyd, it afterwards became their constant residence, and continues to be such at the present day.

At the time of the civil wars, between the house of Stewart and the Parliament, this castle was originally garrisoned for the king, and stood a severe siege against the republican forces, but was ultimately compelled to surrender. So great was the damage it sustained during this attack, that it became wholly uninhabitable, till re-edified, as already mentioned, by Bishop Lloyd. Bishop Hough afterwards planted the grove, which surrounds it, now converted into an elegant shrubbery. The late bishop, Dr. James Cornwallis, likewise contributed greatly, both to the healthful situation and ornament of this residence, by draining all the grounds in its immediate neighbourhood.†

* Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 509.

† Leland, speaking of this castle, says "Eccleshall Castle belonging to the Bishop of Chester." This, however, we should presume to be a mistake, as we do not find it mentioned in any other record, as having ever been in the possession of that see. Leland's Itin. Vol. VI. p. 36—7.

The church is not remarkable except as having been the place in which Bishop Halse concealed Queen Margaret, when she fled hither from Macclestone. North east from the palace, at a few miles distant, is Byana, an ancient building, which was some years ago converted into a farm-house. This edifice was long the residence of the family of the Bosviles, who possessed the estate around it, as it is evidenced by the inscriptions and achievements on their monuments in the church of Eccleshall. Charles Bosvil, Esq. the last male heir of this branch of the family, was sheriff of this county, and afterwards of Leicestershire, about the middle of the last century.

TUTBURY, OR STUTESBURY.

As it is intended to give a description of all the market towns in the county, in this work, it becomes necessary to insert some account of *Tutbury*. Mr. Nightingale (in 1813) observes, "that the market, which is held on Tuesday, is of small note." Mr. Pitt, in 1817, remarks, "that there was a weekly market here prior to the Norman invasion, but it is now discontinued."

But Tutbury is a place of great celebrity, and of much interest, in other respects. It is a parish in Offlow hundred, near the river Dove, over which is a neat stone bridge of nine arches, six miles north by west of Burton, and one hundred and thirty-four from London. In 1811, it contained about one thousand persons; and in 1821, it contained two hundred and sixty-six, houses, and one thousand four hundred and forty-four inhabitants. Its ancient castle, belonging to the Earls of Derby, was formerly one of the most noted in England. The church is a large, massive building. In the town are several chapels for dissenters, and an excellent free-school. The chief business of the place is in the wool and cotton trade. Fairs, February 15, August 16, and December 1. It is a vicarage, value £7. Patron, the Duke of Devonshire.

Tutbury Castle has always been a place of the highest interest, and so long ago as the Heptarchy, its elevated site was said to be occupied by a strong fortress, and was the residence of the kings of Mercia, who remained in security from any sudden attack of an enemy.

The earliest information, however, upon record is, immediately subsequent to the Norman Conquest, in 1066; when, as Mr. Pitt states, "Hugh de Albrincis was in possession of Tutbury Castle, but was deprived of it by the Conqueror, who gave it to one of his greatest favourites and friends, Henry de Ferrers." In the year 1250, it passed to the Earl of Lancaster, in consequence of Robert de Ferrers having joined Simon Mountford in rebellion against Henry III. In 1322, Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, fortified it against Edward II., but could not

hold out, and was obliged to surrender. Tutbury Castle, consequently, reverted to the crown. It was afterwards neglected, and fell into decay, till it came into the possession of John of Gaunt, who re-built it of hewn free-stone, upon the ancient site, in 1350.* This castle was now the principal seat of the Dukes of Lancaster, and was for ages distinguished as the scene of festivity and courtly splendour. The number of minstrels which crowded to it was so great, that, as an expedient for preserving order among them, the celebrated John of Gaunt appointed a chief minstrel, with the title of King, with inferior officers under him, to assist in the execution of the laws. A charter, to that effect, was granted to the chief minstrel in 1381, by the Duke of Lancaster.†

On the demise of John of Gaunt, the Duchy of Lancaster and its dependencies devolved on Henry Plantagenet, his only surviving son; and when that prince afterwards ascended the throne by the title of Henry IV., the honour and castle of Tutbury being thus united with the Duchy of Lancaster to the crown, they have continued so to the present time. In 1568, Mary, Queen of Scots, was confined in Tutbury Castle, which was then a solitary spot, neglected and decayed. Here she continued many years a state prisoner. The following account of the state of the castle, at the time this unfortunate Queen was confined there, is extracted from the papers of Sir Ralph Sadler, the keeper :

“ The whole area, containing about three acres, was encompassed, on all sides but one, with a strong and lofty embattled wall, and deep foss, as the present ruins plainly shew. The principal entrance was by a bridge under the great gateway to the north, part of which is still remaining. At a small distance to the left of this gateway, or lodge, stood Mr. Donel's office and bed-chamber, and four other rooms. Along the north east wall, about one hundred and sixty feet from the entrance, was a lofty tower, embattled, containing four rooms, *viz.* store-house at the bottom; above that, Curle's apartment; over which was the doctor's; and at the top, the chief cook's. This tower is then said to be very much shaken and cleft, and now very little of it is remaining. At a little distance from this, began the principal suite of the Queen's apartments, extending along the east side; *viz.* the Queen's dining-chamber, her closet, and bed-chamber, cabinet, place for wood and coal, and then her women's room. These were all

* Erdeswick, p. 205.

† Among other sports and pastimes introduced at Tutbury Castle by this eccentric, but good-natured, Prince, was the annual custom, called “ Tutbury Bull-running.” On the festival of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the minstrels assembled to mattins at the priory. In the afternoon, they met at the gate, where a bull was given by the prior. The animal had previously been prepared for this inhuman sport, having his horns, ears, and tail cut off, his body besmeared with soap, and his nostrils blown full of pepper. In this state, he was let loose; and if the surrounding minstrels could catch and hold him so long as to deprive him of the smallest portion of his hair, he was declared their property, provided this could be done in Staffordshire, and before sun-set. This custom is supposed, by some antiquaries, to have originated in an imitation of the bull-fights in Spain; which is not improbable, as John of Gaunt was King of the Spanish provinces of Castile and Leon. In the lapse of ages, the pursuit of the bull, which had been confined to the minstrels, became general, and the multitude promiscuously joined in the barbarous sport, which sometimes terminated in a battle royal and bloodshed. The custom was abolished, about forty-two years ago, by the Duke of Devonshire, who gave the minstrels four marks in lieu of their former prize.

above stairs." From this castle, Mary was removed, in 1585, to Chartley, and thence, in 1586, to Fotheringay Castle, where she was beheaded.

King James I., in one of his tours through England, visited Tutbury Castle, the former place of his mother's confinement; and such are the strange vicissitudes of life, that those walls which had so long re-echoed the sighs and groans of an unfortunate Queen, were now shaken with the acclamations of a multitude assembled to greet her son, their Sovereign.

During the civil wars in the time of Charles I. Tutbury Castle was fortified and garrisoned by the royalists. The king spent a fortnight at this castle in 1643.

This Castle, after a long siege, being much battered, was surrendered by the garrison to Colonel Brereton, in 1648; it was then greatly demolished by the parliament forces; and when the event of the war was determined, the fortifications were destroyed by an order from the usurpers of power. This demolition, and the dilapidations of time, have finally reduced this once-beautiful and lofty edifice to a picturesque ruin. A considerable part of the gateway remains; and, from the few vestiges of the castle, it appears to have been built of hewn free-stone, with admixtures of gypsum. A round tower, intended to appear as a ruin, has been erected, on a high mound, by Lord Vernon, the present possessor, who holds the castle, and circumjacent grounds, by lease from the crown. A building has been erected among the ruins, which is the residence of the steward, who entertains the tenants, occasionally, at wakes, &c. A large room in this house is used for assemblies; and the Minstrel's Court is annually held in it. The green park, around the castle-hill, is now a pasture for sheep and cattle; the prospect from the summit of the hill is very extensive, and commands a picturesque view of Needwood Forest.

The Dove fertilizes the rich meadows on its banks, and affords a supply of trout and other fish to the inhabitants, and the turnpike-road, from Burton-upon-Trent to Uttoxeter, passes through the town. The soil of this parish is generally rich, abounding with alabaster and marl; and the meadows are occasionally improved by the inundations of the Dove.

Tutbury Church is a vicarage, dedicated to the Virgin Mary; it constitutes a portion of the ancient priory church, and is a large edifice, with an embattled tower, surmounted by four pinnacles. The principal entrance is an archway, of exquisitely rich and beautiful Saxon architecture; and is, perhaps, the most perfect specimen of the kind in the Island. This entrance is a low semi-circular arch, with a similar arched window above it; it is partly composed of alabaster, richly ensculptured with a variety of grotesque figures; but no description can give an adequate idea of the beauty of the whole. Part of the arch of the window is beginning to moulder, but the entrance is in a state of perfect preservation.

The Priory was founded by Henry de Ferrers in 1080, and amply endowed by him with lands and revenues. The religious order, who resided here, where Benedictine monks, and several additional donations were conferred on the establishment, by William Rufus and his Queen Maud. Robert, Earl Ferrers, grandson to the founder, confirmed to the monks all their possessions, and added the tithes of Newborough to his gift. His descendants also contributed to the wealth and magnificence of this celebrated Priory, scarcely a vestige of which now remains. Little is known of the original extent of this monastery; but, among the few facts recorded of it, we are informed that it contained a splendid monument to the memory of the

founder, with a Latin inscription upon it. A general account of the annual revenue from the possessions belonging to this Priory, is preserved in the First Fruits Office, by which it appears, that in 1538 they amounted to the annual sum of £244. 16s. 8d. a very considerable income according to the value of money in the middle of the sixteenth century. On the dissolution of the monastic orders, by Henry VIII., Arthur Neverel, *alias* Throwley, with eight monks, surrendered this Priory to the king's commissioners, on the 14th day of September, 1538, as appears by the original deed of surrender in the Augmentation Office. This prior afterwards received a pension of fifty pounds a year.

The site of Tutbury Priory was granted, in the sixth year of the reign of Edward VI., to Sir William Cavendish, who pulled down the Priory, and part of the church, to build a large mansion, which was the residence of his eldest son Henry. He dying without legitimate issue, it devolved to his next brother; and it has descended from successive possessors to the present owner, the Duke of Devonshire.

A pretended instance of *total abstinence*, in the case of a woman named Ann Moore, an inhabitant of Tutbury, for a long time engrossed a very considerable share of public attention. The imposture was carried on for several years with such extraordinary art and success, that it obtained, in regard to the supposed validity of the woman's assertion, the sanction of a large number of medical, philosophical, and other visitors, of every description, from all parts of the kingdom. The laudable exertions of a committee of gentlemen, formed for the avowed purpose of investigating this extraordinary case, at length discovered the cheat; and the wretched woman completed their labours, by a formal and unequivocal confession of her guilt, before Thomas Lister, Esq. one of the magistrates for this county.*

* The following account of this imposture, derived from unquestionable authority, is copied from the *Staffordshire Gazette*, of May 11th, 1813:

This unparalleled delusion, which has made so much noise, has been pursued, but too successfully, for nearly six years. The persevering subtlety with which this woman has carried on her imposture, is without example, and baffled all attempts to detect her; and, but for the unconquerable scepticism of some of the faculty, (particularly Dr. Henderson,) her case would have been handed down to posterity, as an indubitable instance of a human being living without receiving the least sustenance. The watch, which had been publicly advertised, commenced on Wednesday 21st ult., and was strictly carried on until Friday the 30th, a period of nine days, during all which time, these gentlemen verify, that she had not received any nourishment. She, however, gradually grew feebler, her pulse was almost imperceptible, and she, at length, became so ill, as on the latter named day to induce the gentlemen to suspend the watch. At this time, she begged to have her mouth moistened with a wetted cloth, and her desire was complied with, by applying to her lips a cloth dipped in vinegar and water; this was done several times, and the gentleman who administered it, declared he perceived her to swallow; although she, even then, strenuously denied it. The physician attending upon her, at the same time, gave it as his opinion that she could not survive an hour; and yet, at this period, with the immediate prospect of eternity before her, she, *by her own desire*, took an oath, drawn up in the strongest and clearest terms, that, for more than four years past, she had not taken sustenance of any description! Her daughter was now admitted to see her, and she, in a short time, very much revived.

From the weighing machine, upon which she was placed during the watch, it appeared that she had lost daily nearly fourteen ounces in weight. Nothing now remained, to convince every one of her imposition, but her own confession of her guilt, and this last proof she voluntarily made before a magistrate. After this confession, she took milk, in the presence of several of the gentlemen, and now seems fast recovering. See the Rev. Leigh Richmond's "Statement of Facts. &c."

It appears, that Tutbury was erected into a free borough at an early period, by some of the royal personages, who occupied its once magnificent castle. The burgesses and inhabitants then possessed a variety of valuable privileges. Among these, were, "divers liberties of common, of pasture, of purvenage, and estovers, in the forest of Needwood;" together, with freedom from "all toll, tonnage, package, poundage, and other exactions within all their possessions." What is rather remarkable, this town never had the right of sending members to Parliament, though still retaining the name of a borough.

BREWOOD.

BREWOOD, a large parish, and formerly a market town, sometimes spelt Breewood, is in the hundred of Cuttlestone, four miles south from Penkridge, seven north from Wolverhampton, and one hundred and twenty-nine north west from London, on the river Penk; on one of the branches of which the town is delightfully situated, and very neatly built. According to the parliamentary population returns of 1801, the parish contained one thousand four hundred and five males, and one thousand four hundred and sixty-two females; total inhabitants, two thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven. In 1811, the town alone contained two hundred and ten inhabited houses, and two hundred and twelve families; of whom sixty-nine were employed in agriculture, eighty-seven in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, and fifty-six not engaged in business; the number of persons were four hundred and seventy-five males, five hundred and sixteen females; total, nine hundred and ninety-one. In 1821, the parish contained five hundred and thirty-eight houses, and two thousand seven hundred and seventy-three inhabitants. It is a vicarage value £6. 17s. 8d. Patron, the Dean of Lichfield.

There was a convent of Benedictine, or Cistercian nuns, in the reign of Richard I. founded here by Hubert Walter. At the dissolution of the religious houses, its revenue was only £11. 1s. 6d. per annum. The Free Grammar School of this town is an excellent and well-conducted institution; it was founded by Dr. Matthew Knightly, and endowed with lands to the amount of £60. per annum. The masters are permitted to receive a limited number of pupils and boarders. Several eminent men have been educated at this school; among others, the late celebrated Bishop Hurd.

Mr. Nightingale notices, that "Processioning was prevalent here as well as at Wolverhampton."

ton, during the last century; on which occasion, it was customary for the inhabitants to adorn their wells with boughs and flowers.*

Several severe shocks of an earthquake were felt at this place in 1678, which were preceded by a loud, rumbling noise, resembling distant thunder. The bishop of the diocese is said to have had a seat here before the Conquest.

Mr. Pitt, in his survey of Staffordshire, notices *Chillington* as the largest estate in the parish of Brewood, and includes the south and west part. It is the property of ——— Giffard, Esq. The mansion and offices are extensive; and the gardens, pleasure-grounds, and plantations, are laid out with great taste, and much improved by the present owner. This estate contains several villages and farm-houses, besides *Chillington*; particularly *Gunston*, *Long Birch*, the *Hattons*, *White and Black Ladies*, and the *Hyde*. The Giffard family has large estates in other parts of this county; but their religious tenets have kept them from public employments. Mr. Giffard, of *Chillington*, is, however, a gentleman of liberal principles; and the passing of the emancipation Bill places him in as high a political situation as his neighbours. He is married to a Protestant lady, by whom he has a large family. His tenantry are mostly Roman Catholics, who are accommodated with chapels on his estate at *Long Birch* and *Black Ladies*.

Somerford is another large estate in the parish of Brewood, including the manor of *Coven*, *Brewood Hall*, *Engleton Hall*, *Four Ashes*, and *Somerford Hall*. The Hon. Edward Monckton, third son to Viscount Galway, in Ireland, much improved this estate; and *Somerford Hall* is now an elegant mansion, in a pleasant situation on the eastern bank of the *Penk*. The estate was nearly stripped of all its timber by the former owners; but Mr. Monckton improved its general appearance by extensive plantations. The population of the liberty of *Somerford*, in 1811, was five hundred and seventy-eight persons, of whom two hundred and eighty-three were males, and two hundred and ninety-five females.

The parish contains other villages and hamlets, particularly *Kiddimore Green*, a township situated to the west of *Brewood*; the villages of *Broomhall* and *Horsebrook*, near the *Watling Street*; the hamlets of *Crateford* and *Standeford*; *Aspley Farm*, and the *Laches*, hamlets on the eastern side of the parish; and the small village or hamlet called *Paradise*.

* This custom of adorning wells is a relict of popish times. When that religion prevailed, this ceremony was instituted to distinguish such wells as were celebrated for the cure of particular diseases, and generally took place on the saint's days, when the people diverted themselves with music and dancing, and had cakes and ale.

RUDGELEY.

RUDGELEY, or RUGELEY, a market town and parish in Cuttlestone hundred, Staffordshire, is situate near the south bank of the Trent, seven miles north-west from Lichfield, nine and a half from Stafford, and one hundred and thirty-one from London. Although the town is built in a low situation, it is in a delightful and healthy country, around which are a number of elegant and splendid seats and mansions. The town is not only neatly and well built, but also contains many elegant houses. The Grand Trunk Canal, uniting with the Trent and Mersey, and running past the north side of the town, affords the greatest facilities of, and has vastly contributed to, the trade of the place, the chief of which is in the manufacture of hats and felts; but several other branches of manufacture are carried on here. In 1801, it contained four hundred and twenty-eight houses, and two thousand and thirty inhabitants; nine hundred and seventy-eight of whom were males, one thousand and fifty-two females. In 1811, the town and parish contained four hundred and fifty-three houses, and fourteen buildings. The number of families was four hundred and seventy-eight; in which there were one thousand and eighty-nine males, and one thousand one hundred and twenty-four females. In 1821, it contained four hundred and ninety-four houses, and two thousand six hundred and sixty-seven inhabitants; of whom three hundred and seventeen were employed in the various trades and manufactures, particularly in those of hats and felts. The town is under the government of two constables, who are chosen annually by the inhabitants. The market day is on Tuesday and Thursday. Fairs, April 19, June 3, 4, 5, 7; October 21, and December 14, for cattle and horses. The church, which is a vicarage, valued at £5. 2s., is dedicated to St. Augustine, and is in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield. The ancient church of Stone, consists of two low aisles of equal dimensions; a handsome tower ornaments the west end; and on the south side, in the interior of the body, is a circular ornamented arch. The church contains several monuments of the families of Weston, Chetwynd, Lander, Sneyd, &c.

Mr. Nightingale asserts, that "The manor was anciently the property of a family who either gave their name to the town, or derived it from hence." The latter is the more probable circumstance, or more would have been known or said of their family circle. Mr. N., however, remarks, that "In the reign of Edward III. we find some of this family sheriffs of the county; and one a knight of the Shire about the same time." How long they continued to possess it, is somewhat uncertain; but, in the beginning of the sixteenth century, Erdiswick mentions it as a property of the Bishop of Lichfield, from whom it was alienated to the king by Bishop Sampson, in 1547. Mr. Pitt says, that Dr. Wilkes traces the etymology (and we think cor-

* Pennant's Journey, p. 129.

rectly) of Rugeley, from *Ridgeley*, a ridge of hills above the town. Cannock-heath approaches within a mile of Rugeley on the south; and Stile Cop, one of its eminences, covered with trees, is seen at the distance of many miles. From the summit there is a prospect of great part of Derbyshire, Staffordshire, and Worcestershire, and a part of Shopshire.

The Free Grammar School of Rugeley was established by Queen Elizabeth, who endowed the institution with lands in and about the town, which had formerly been appropriated for the instruction of boys in a chantry, dissolved by Henry VIII.

John Bamford Cowper also founded a charity school, and left four hundred pounds in trust, the interest of which was to be paid to a school-master, for instructing sixteen boys of the poorest families in Rugeley, in reading, writing, and arithmetic, to qualify them to go apprentices to trades. They were also instructed in the church catechism, and the principles of the Christian religion.

Among the memorable events recorded in the parish register of Rugeley, there is an account of a fire on Trinity Sunday, May 20, 1646, which destroyed twenty-nine dwelling-houses. The sufferers afterwards received £335.7s.10d. On Saturday, February 19, 1708, a fire broke out in the west end of Rugeley, at nine o'clock in the morning, and consumed ten habitations, nine barns and offices, and goods to the value of £808.3s.2d. which was paid to the sufferers severally, by Benjamin Adie. The new church is a very handsome structure.

WEDNESBURY,

Is a considerable market town and parish in Offlow hundred, adjoining Bromwich on the north-west, at a short distance from the source of the river Tame: it is five miles from Wolverhampton, three from Walsall, seven north-west from Birmingham, and one hundred and twenty-four from London. In 1801 the population was four thousand one hundred and sixty, of whom two thousand and seventy-one were males, and two thousand and eighty-nine, females; one thousand three hundred and ninety-three persons were employed in different branches of trade, and two hundred and forty-three in agriculture. In 1811, Wednesbury contained five thousand three hundred and seventy-two persons, of whom two thousand eight hundred and six were males, and two thousand five hundred and sixty-six females; making an unusual falling off in the latter, when compared with the number of males and females, in 1801, and taking into consideration that the females exceed the number of males in nearly all the population returns. In 1821 this town contained eleven hundred and ninety-four houses, and six thousand four hundred and seventy-one inhabitants, of whom one thousand two hundred and eight families were employed in

manufactures. The attention of the inhabitants is particularly directed to the manufacture of iron axle-trees, coach-springs, bridle-bits, stirrups, saws, edge-tools, nails, gun-barrels, locks, wood-screws, &c., as well as cast iron goods of every description; and the manufactories and collieries that surround them, as well as the people themselves, wear a peculiar character. The inhabitants have many advantages from the excellence of the coal in this neighbourhood, and they avail themselves of it in their persevering industry. In fact the place is reckoned famous for its coal, which is much valued, on account of its heat, for smith's work: the supply is inexhaustible, and it extends in separate veins, from three to twelve yards in thickness, and yields to its various proprietors, an almost princely fortune.

Mr. Pitt, in his survey of this place, says that "a peculiar species of iron ore is found here called blond metal, which is chiefly used in the manufacture of nails, horse-shoes, hammers, axes, and other heavy tools. Reddish earth called kip, is also found in the neighbourhood of Wednesbury, which is used in glazing vessels of different kinds." Dr. Wilkes speaks of the wildfire which is discoverable in the old coal pits of Wednesbury field. "It breaks out spontaneously in the vast heaps of slack left in the coal-works, which contain a vast quantity of sulphur, and frequently smokes through the surface, and acts upon the several strata, some of which are reduced to cinders: it hardens clay into what is called pork-stone, which is good for repairing the roads, or laying the foundation of buildings. Another kind of fire in these mines goes off with a tremendous explosion, driving every thing before it; but, when the proper means are used, this is prevented."

Mr. Savary, the original inventor of the steam-engine, set one of these engines down in Wednesbury, near a place called the broad waters, but the water was too powerful for the machinery, and he was forced to give up the undertaking; thus he had discovered a power sufficient to produce any effect, but was unable to form machinery for using it. This was reserved for after ages; but the world is highly indebted to him for the principle, since so highly improved, and so generally applied.

The Birmingham canal is brought to this town, and, continues Mr. Pitt, "the most powerful machinery in the world for raising water, has been erected in this neighbourhood, at Oaken-hill, by the Birmingham canal company, upon Boulton and Watt's application of Savary's principle."

The art of manufacturing iron with pit-coal being perfected, furnaces are uncommonly numerous in the vicinity of Wednesbury; they are plentifully supplied with materials on the spot, and the utmost facility for the conveyance of the manufactured goods afforded by branches from the canal in all directions.

This town is of great antiquity: the church is a fine old gothic structure, supposed to have been built by Dudo, Lord of Dudley, in the eighth century, at the same time he built Dudley castle. Here are also meeting-houses for Presbyterians, Quakers, and Methodists. Of the latter sect, Mr. Pitt states that, "in the year 1742, when Lady Huntingdon sent John and Charles Wesley to Wednesbury to preach the doctrine of Methodism, the miners, and iron manufacturers, who were then in rather an uncivilized state, rose in a mob, and broke the windows of the house where some people had assembled to hear the preachers. Some of the rioters being brought, by a warrant, before Justice Pershouse, he reprimanded the Methodists. The minister

of Wednesbury then joined with the magistrates (according to Mr. Wesley) and the mob was encouraged to persecute and insult the Methodists, and all who joined them.

"These riotous proceedings being noticed by government, one of the Middlesex justices, in an interview with Mr. John Wesley, informed him that he had orders from the king to do him justice, his majesty being determined that no man in his dominions should be persecuted for conscience sake. Thus, by the beneficent influence of the sovereign, the rioters were intimidated, and the spirit of persecution subsided." It was not an uncommon thing at a much later period, that the Methodist preachers were insulted in various parts of the kingdom—but a better feeling and a better taste has prevailed for the last thirty years.

Mr. Nightingale thus describes the ancient church already alluded to. "The church is an elegant building in the pointed style of architecture, and adorns the summit of the hill, on which the castle was situated. At one end rises a handsome tower, supporting a lofty spire of unusual beauty. The interior is divided into a chancel, nave, and north and south aisles. These last are separated from the nave, by a range of very neat arches, which rest upon octagonal pillars; one arch being intersected by another pillar, produces a singular and awkward effect. In the chancel are several prebendal stalls, ornamented with most exquisite carved work. Here are a variety of monuments in honour of the ancestors of the families of Lords Dudley and Harcourt; against the north wall appears a very ancient tomb, on which are placed two female figures standing under Gothic niches, each having her right hand resting on a plain shield. On the floor are cut out the figures of a knight and his lady, the one habited in full armour, and the other in the dress of the times. Several more are visible on the stones, but are so much obliterated as to be incapable of description. Within the rails is an alabaster monument to the memory of Mr. Parkes, whose effigy, and that of his wife lie recumbent on the top. A monument adjoining the south wall, represents a man and woman kneeling, having beneath them the figures of six children. Around the church-yard is a large graff, in which the vestiges of the ancient fort may be distinctly traced. The prospect from hence is among the most extensive in the county."

The market at Wednesbury, is on Wednesday—Fairs, May the sixth, and August the fourth. In the time of the Mercians, this place was distinguished by a noble castle, fortified by Aelfleda, who was for some time governess of this extensive kingdom. No part of this work of antiquity now remains, except a few traces of its foundation. After the conquest it became a portion of the royal demesnes. Henry II. however, bestowed it on the family of the Heronvilles in exchange for the town of Cobsfield, in Yorkshire, so that it is now a parcel of the honour of Woodstock. From them it passed, after various successions, into the family of the Beaumonts.

PENKRIDGE.

PENKRIDGE is a large market town, and parish, in Cuttlestone hundred, situate on the river Penk, and lies several miles north-west of Cannock, it is four miles north-east of Brewood, six miles to the south of Stafford, ten miles north of Wolverhampton, and one hundred and twenty-nine north-west from London. In 1821 it contained four hundred and sixteen houses, and two thousand two hundred and ninety-nine inhabitants.

According to Camden, this town is built on the site of the Roman *Pennocrucium*, and he says, "the military way continues from Wall, very fair and plain, almost without any breach, till it is crossed and interrupted by the river Penk, and hath a stone bridge built over it at *Pennocrucium*, so called from the river, and standing at the same distance which Antoninus has fixed; which town has not quite lost the name at this day, being for *Pennocrucium* called Penkridge." At present Penkridge is only a small village, famous for a horse-fair, which Hugh Blount or Flavus, the lord of it, obtained of King Edward II.

Mr. Nightingale says, that "it derives its name, as is generally supposed, from the river Penk, which flows past it, as does likewise the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Grand Trunk canal."

Penkridge is undoubtedly a place of very great antiquity. According to some, as before noticed, it is the *Pennocrucium* of the Romans, mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus. On this point, however, there is considerable diversity of opinion amongst antiquaries. Camden regarded it as having been that Roman station; but Plott,* Stukeley, and Horsley, transfer the latter to Stretton, a village situated in the neighbourhood, a little below the bridge under which the river Penk crosses the Watling-street. But though differing with respect to the actual site of *Pennocrucium* these authors all agree in considering Penkridge as having risen on its ruins. A brass head, the bolt of a catapulta, was found here about the middle of the last century.

The church of Penkridge was formerly collegiate. In the reign of King Stephen, it was bestowed on the bishop and churches of Lichfield and Coventry. Afterwards, however, the advowson was given by Hugh Huose, to the archbishop of Dublin, in Ireland, who was generally, in subsequent times, dean here, and had the collation of all the prebendaries, who were thirteen in number. At the dissolution, this church became the property of W. Riggs and William Buckbird. It is an old building with a square tower, but possesses no architectural features worthy of particular detail.

* Plott's Nat. Hist. of Stafford, p. 401. Horsley, 19. Salmon will not have *Pennocrucium*, to be in this neighbourhood at all, maintaining it to have been situated at Oldbury, in Warwickshire. Survey of England, vol. ii.

The following particulars, respecting Penkridge, are extracted from the manuscripts of Sir Edward Littleton, bart. and communicated by the Rev. Richard Slaney, vicar of the church.

“Sir Edward Littleton, bart. to the Rev. R. Slaney, *Penkridge*.

Teddesley, Nov. 3, 1807.

“SIR,—By the first of Edward VI. 1547, colleges and chantrys are, by act of parliament, vested in the crown, which puts an end to the claim of the archbishop of Dublin’s jurisdiction over Penkridge; and it remained in the hands of the crown till granted out to others.

The grant of King John to the archbishop of Dublin, bears date thirteenth September, 1206, and is done away by the above first Edward VI. 1547, by an act of parliament.

EDWARD LITTLETON.”

“King Edward II., in the eleventh year of his reign, declared that the chapel at Pencriz, and others, were his free chapels, and as such, exempt from all ordinary jurisdiction, impositions, exactions and contributions, and accordingly ordained, that none should presume to encroach upon their immunities.”*

The church is a fine Gothic building of stone, with a square tower, and five bells. It is dedicated to St. Michael, being now only a curacy. “It is a royal peculiar, having four chapels within its jurisdiction, namely, Dunstan, dedicated to St. Leonard; Coppenhall, to St. Lawrence; Shareshill, to the assumption of the Virgin Mary; and Stretton, to St. John. The official of the peculiar holds visitations, probate courts, and licenses the incumbents to the chapels. In the chancel of the church of Penkridge, there are several monuments of the Littleton family, who are patrons of the church.

There is a charity-school in Penkridge for twelve boys and eight girls.

The principal manufacture of Penkridge, is iron, which is, however, inconsiderable. From the situation of the town on the low and flat northern bank of the river Penk, it is subject to inundations when that river is swelled by floods. The market is held on Tuesday, three annual fairs are held in this town; the thirtieth of April, September the second, and the eleventh of October. These fairs are allowed to be among the first in England for saddle and draught horses.

A very considerable part of the extensive parish of Penkridge is the property of the Littleton family.

At a short distance to the south of Penkridge, is the village of *Lapley*, where there formerly stood an alien priory of black nuns, belonging to the religious body of St. Remigius at Rheims, on whom it is said to have been bestowed in the time of Edward the Confessor, by Aylmer, Earl of Chester and Mercia. Henry I. afterwards granted it to the college of Tong.

* Dugdale’s *Monasticon Anglicanum*, p. 370.

LONGNOR.

Longnor is a township and chapelry in the parish of Alstonfield, in the hundred of Totmanslow—six miles north-east from Leek, and one hundred and fifty-two from London.—In 1811 it contained about one hundred houses, and four hundred inhabitants; in 1821 it contained only one hundred and one houses, and four hundred and sixty inhabitants. The market house standing upon an eminence, is neat and convenient, and the market which is held on Tuesday, is remarkable for the limited time allotted to the sale of its various commodities.

The small church or rather chapel, to the vicarage of Alstonfield, is a neat and modern structure of stone, with a high square tower adorned with eight pinnacles; the interior is plain and the pews of fir, painted to resemble oak. There are a small number of Dissenters and Methodists. In the church-yard are several monuments, and, among others, is the following curious one, giving a biographical record of an old military veteran.

“In memory of WILLIAM BILLINGE, who was born in a corn field at Fairfield's heath, in this parish, in the year 1679. At the age of twenty-three years, he enlisted into His Majesty's service, under Sir George Rooke, and was at the taking of the fortress of Gibraltar in 1704. He afterwards served under the late Duke of Marlborough at the ever memorable battle of Ramillies, fought on the twenty-third of May, 1706, where he was wounded by a musket shot in the thigh; afterwards returned to his native country, and with manly courage defended his sovereign's rights, at the rebellions of 1715, and 1745. He died within the space of one hundred and fifty yards of the place where he was born, and was interred here the thirtieth of January, 1791—aged one hundred and twelve years.

Billeted by death, I quarter'd here remain,
When the last trumpet sounds, I'll rise and march again.”

Other instances of longevity are inscribed on the tomb-stones here; one to the memory of Sarah Wain, who died January the twenty-eighth, 1809, aged ninety-one years; another aged ninety, and several between eighty and ninety.

Mr. Nightingale states, that at or near this place, was born *Andrew Bromwich*, a priest, who suffered much persecution for being a Roman Catholic. He was educated at the English college of Lisboe, where he was ordained, and sent back to his native country, upon the mission.

He followed the sacred functions near Wolverhampton, till the plot breaking out in 1678, he was apprehended, and committed to Stafford gaol. He was tried at the county assizes, August thirteenth, 1679, together with William Atkins, a Jesuit; Sir William Scroggs sitting upon the bench. The evidence produced against him by one Anne Robinson, who swore, that she fre-

quently heard him say mass, and had herself received the sacrament at his hands. This dreadful charge of worshipping God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and the forms of his ancestors, was further confirmed by one Geoffrey Robinson, who deposed that he heard Mr. Bromwich repeat something in a language which the deponent did not understand, and use certain ceremonies in a surplice, &c. This man's wife, Jane, being called, would not swear that she knew any thing injurious to the prisoner's character. Notwithstanding this, poor Bromwich was condemned to die; but his abominable vile persecutors afterwards thought better of the matter, and he was reprieved and pardoned. It is painful and humiliating to a Protestant writer, to have occasion to mention instances of bigotry like this; and many, to our shame be it spoken, there are.

This village was supposed to have lain waste at the conquest, being in so wild a part of the country, and is said not to have been inhabited, for a considerable time afterwards. It is not mentioned in Domesday-book, nor in the record called *Nomina Villarum*, taken in the time of Edward III.

Paynesley near this place is mentioned as a seat formerly belonging to the Draycots, who kept, according to the custom of those times, a fool or jester, whose name was Richard Morse. This man had a very singular sagacity in distinguishing times and particular seasons. He could not only tell the changes of the moon, the times of the eclipses, and at what time Easter and Whitsuntide would fall, or any other moveable feast whatever; but could also tell, at what time they had fallen, for several years previously—and when they would fall at any distance of years to come. The author of the *Magna Britannia** conjectures that all this wonderful knowledge resulted not from any acquired knowledge, or “any thing that depends on custom or instruction,” but “must be referred to some remote and unknown impression, intimately seated in his soul.”

HANLEY.

HANLEY is a very extensive modern market-town, forming a most important portion of the potteries, and is next in size to Burslem, which we have already described with the potteries generally, but as no part of them can exceed Hanley in the respectability of its manufactories, it deserves separate notice; for, as Mr. Pitt justly remarks, however irregular the streets may appear to an observer in the town, Hanley, from its elevated situation, appears to great advantage when viewed from Cobridge, or from the turnpike-road between Newcastle and Leek,

which passes near it. The Grand Trunk canal is close to the town, and affords the utmost facility of inland navigation, for the conveyance of the earthenware to Liverpool, Hull, and London.

Hanley is situate about two miles northward from Newcastle and is much noticed from the elegance of its church, which was rebuilt of brick in the year 1788. This handsome and well built structure is surrounded by an extensive well enclosed cemetery—the tower of the church is one hundred feet high, and this edifice which cost upwards of £5000. is a chapel of ease to Stoke upon Trent. The patronage is vested in certain trustees.

Hanley has Methodist, and several dissenting, meeting houses.

The market of this place is plentifully supplied with provisions of every description and is well attended.

It appears from a statement of Mr. Pitt that “in 1812, owing to the encreasing population of the town, it was deemed necessary to apply to the legislature to empower certain trustees to enlarge the market-place, and an act for ‘establishing and regulating the market, and for enlarging and improving the market-place,’ at Hanley was obtained, and Wednesday and Saturday are mentioned as the market days, but the latter is the principal.”

In 1811, Hanley contained nine hundred and eleven houses, nine hundred and thirty families; two thousand one hundred and sixty-five males, two thousand three hundred and sixteen females; total, four thousand four hundred and eighty-one inhabitants.

LANE END.

LANE END is also a very populous and modern market-town. The church like that of Hanley, of which it is supposed to be built in imitation of, is of brick, but not so pleasantly situate, the site not being so elevated; it appears that it was rebuilt about the year 1795. The original chapel was principally built and endowed at the charge of the late John Bourne, Esq. and was consecrated in 1764. Mr. Pitt pays the following tribute to Mr. Bourne:—

“Mr. Bourne was an inhabitant of Newcastle-under-line, and as our article for that place was too copious to copy the monumental inscriptions of public characters in the church there, we hope to stand excused by our readers in taking this opportunity of recording a just tribute of respect to a pious, benevolent, man, and a benefactor to the people of Lane End. Mr. Bourne was buried at Newcastle, and in the church there, on a mural monument, is the following inscription.

“In memory of JOHN BOURNE, Esq. late a worthy inhabitant of this town (Newcastle-under-line) and one of His Majesty’s justices of peace for the county of Stafford. A man very re-

markable for his extensive liberality. His zeal for religion appeared from several new chapels erected and endowed in this neighbourhood, chiefly at his expence. His benevolence towards man was shewn by a constant readiness to assist the needy with whatever their wants required; and by strenuously supporting every measure which promised happiness to mankind. As a magistrate he was active and impartial, distributing justice with temper and judgment. He was kind to his relations, sincere to his friends, and forgiving to his enemies. He died a bachelor, September the thirteenth, 1764, aged seventy-three years.

“He was maternal uncle to the Rev. John Fernyhough, B. D. who was forty-three years the respected and beloved minister of Newcastle, and not only succeeded to a fair portion of his uncle’s fortune, but possessed his virtues also. He died March the eighth, 1803, at the same age (seventy-three) was buried March the fifteenth at the same place, and was likewise a benefactor to Lane End chapel, inasmuch as he gave £100. on the condition that another hundred pounds was raised, which was accordingly done by subscription, and this was procured one of the augmentations from Queen Ann’s bounty to Lane End chapel.”

Lane End church is a chapel of ease to Stoke. The township of Lane End, including Langton, in 1811, contained one thousand and thirty-two houses, and four thousand nine hundred and thirty inhabitants, of whom two thousand two hundred and seventy-seven were males, and two thousand six hundred and fifty-three females.

Mr. Pitt gives the following extraordinary instances of longevity, extracted from the parish register; “Lydia Barber died October the twenty-seventh, 1769, aged, one hundred and seven years; Rosomond Cook, died September the twenty-third, 1774, aged one hundred and twenty-four years; Elizabeth Mills, died February the fourteenth, 1776, aged one hundred years; Sampson Smith, died August the eleventh, 1780, aged ninety-nine years, and Sarah Hollins, died November the tenth, 1780, aged one hundred years.”

A charity school for instruction in the English language was built and endowed in 1760: the benevolent Mr. Bourne is said to have been the original founder of this charity.

TATENHILL.

HAVING in the preceding pages given an account of the market-towns of this county, we shall proceed to describe some of its principal villages, and other objects, from the latest authorities, and conclude the work with a delineation of those seats, of which we have already presented engravings.

The above extensive parish, and small village, of Tatenhill, is in Scisdon hundred, in the

deanery of Tamworth, situate about two miles west by north from Wolverhampton, about the same distance west from Burton, and one hundred and thirty-two from London. It is planted in a deep narrow valley between two lofty hills skirting the eastern border of Needwood forest. The church is an ancient large stone edifice, placed on an eminence east of the village, as is also the Free school, a venerable fabric, erected in 1593, and lately much improved through the exertions of Mr. Kirk. Mr. Nightingale states that "the superior lords of the chief manor, originally, were the Ferrers, earls of Derby,* from whom it descended to the house of Lancaster. In the reign of Edward III. John of Gaunt made a grant of it to Sir Philip de Somerville, for certain curious services† which our limits will not permit us to narrate. From this family it passed by marriage to that of Griffyth, who likewise possessed the adjoining manor of *Bridde-shus* or *Briddesdale*.

The parish church is a large old building, consisting of a lofty nave and chancel, and surmounted by a massive tower. On the floor in the body of it, are several ancient flat stones with figures cut out upon them, but in so mutilated a state as to render it impossible to ascertain any thing concerning them. The tower is remarkable as the *Centrum Phonocampiticum* or object of an echo, which returns no less than five syllables distinctly, though the distance of the *Centrum Phonicum*, or speaker's place, does not exceed seventy yards.‡ Another uncommon echo is mentioned by Dr. Plott, as having been formerly heard near the parsonage house, which so much depended on the state of the weather, that it never answered except in frost.

There are several hamlets in this parish; but that of *Burton under Needwood* alone deserves to be noticed. This place was anciently called simply *Berton*, and seems to have been of some consequence at the time of the Norman conquest. The church, a chapel of ease to *Tatenhill*, is a neat building of stone founded about the commencement of the sixteenth century, by Dr. John Taylor, a native of this village, and the eldest of three at a birth. The windows of the chancel still display the remains of rich and elegantly finished paintings of the twelve apostles. In the centre one, is the figure of the Saviour upon the cross.

Some years ago a variety of Roman coins were discovered in the vicinity of the small hamlet of *Callingwood*. A curious and beautiful model of shittim-wood, the holy sepulchre, with the church over it, was formerly deposited in a house possessed by Mr. Jolland. The history of it, as well as the name of the artist, are unknown. It is remarkable that salt is so profusely mixed with the soil of some parts of this parish, that even black cattle change their colour to a whitish dun, after grazing upon it only for a few months. To the west of the principal village lies *Sinai park*, once possessed by the abbots of *Burton*; and now the property of the Earl of *Uxbridge*. It is a rough hilly piece of ground, and derived its name from some supposed resemblance between it and the wilderness of *Sinai*.

* Baron. vol. i. p. 262.
Dugdale's Baronetage.

† See Shaw's *Staffordshire*, p. 106. Blount's *Tenure's*, 217.

‡ Plott's *Natural History of Staffordshire*, p. 28.

NEEDWOOD FOREST.

THIS highly picturesque and beautiful forest which has so long been admired, had, until within these few years, remained unenclosed in its fine natural state. It has not only been described by the historian Camden as "a spacious forest and full of parks, in which the neighbouring nobility eagerly pursue the cheerful sport of hunting," but has by a modern poet been beautifully described in song.

About a century ago it consisted of nearly ten thousand acres in an open state of nature. It is situated in the northern extremity of the hundred of Offlow, in the four parishes of Tutbury, Hanbury, Tatenhill, and Yoxall. Jackson in his account of Tutbury says that there were formerly eight parks, impaled within the ring of the forest, called the parks of Agardesley, Stockley, Barton, Heylins, Sherrold, Castle-hay, Hanbury, and Rolleston. That of Castle-hay, situate about a mile from the castle, was three and a half miles in compass, and that of Hanbury, two miles and a half.

In the survey of Tutbury, (of which this ancient forest or chace is the most beautiful part) at the commencement of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the following account is given: "The forest or chace of Needwood, is in compass by estimation, twenty-three miles and a half, and the nearest part thereof is distant from the castle of Tutbury but one mile. In it are seven thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine yards and a half, and very forest like ground, thinly set with old oakes and timber-trees, well replenished with coverts of underwood and thornes, which might be coppiced in divers parts thereof, for increase of wood and timber, lately sore decayed and spoyled. It is divided into four wards, viz. Tutbury ward, Marchington ward, Yoxall ward, and Barton ward, each containing five miles or more in compass." This forest anciently formed a portion of the Duchy of Lancaster, and after the accession of Henry IV. it belonged to the crown for centuries. The officers are composed of a lieutenant and chief ranger, assisted by a deputy and four lieutenants, four keepers, and an axe bearer, an annual court is held by the king's steward in honour of Tutbury, and a jury of twenty-four persons, residing within the jurisdiction present and amerce all persons guilty of "encroaching on the forest or committing offences in vert of venison."

The eye is delighted with a great variety of picturesque beauty, particularly in the more fertile portions in the southern and middle divisions, which are diversified by hill and dale while the northern portion is divided into deep ravines and lofty summits, clothed with a variety of trees growing in the most luxuriant perfection, Mr. Pitt observes that "the uneven parts of the forest, comprising upwards of one thousand two hundred acres, consisting of abrupt hills and dells, will probably be appropriated to the growth of timber, and the remaining eight thousand acres added to the cultivated land of the country. One-eighth of this quantity consists of light

sound loam, adapted to the culture of turnips; and the rest, which is generally a red, or whitish grey marly loam, will produce excellent pasturage, or be productive of good beans.

In the northern extremity of the forest is a singularly romantic valley, called Bertram's dingle, which, if private property, might be made uncommonly beautiful. Besides the natural beauties of Needwood forest, it is adorned with four handsome lodges, which have for ages been held under the crown on a lease of three lives, and transferred from time to time to different owners.

All descriptions combine in bestowing an interesting picture of this pleasing tract of country, among others, Mr. Nightingale remarks that "the natural disposition of this forest presents a great and beautiful variety of aspect. Gradual eminences and easy vales, watered by murmuring rills, with here and there a bolder and more abrupt swell, form its general feature. In the northern parts, particularly within Marchington woodlands, the eminences are far more numerous and lofty than in the middle or southern divisions. The forest here exhibits to the eye, a series of deep glens, inclosed by steep and rugged precipices, incapable of agricultural improvement, but happily covered with a vast variety of trees, among which the native oak, vigorous and luxuriant, shoots up in great abundance. Mr. Shaw says, that the whole forest does not contain less than one thousand acres of oak timber, a greater quantity than perhaps any district in England can boast of possessing. The venerable *Swilcar*, a tree of immense size* and majestic appearance, is situated in an open lawn, surrounded by extensive woods, and is supposed to have stood upwards of six hundred years. It is thus addressed, in truly poetical strains, in the poem of "Needwood Forest."

"Hail, stately oak, whose wrinkled trunk hath stood
Age after age the sovereign of the wood:
You, who have seen a thousand springs unfold
Their ravel'd buds and dip their flowers in gold;
Ten thousand times yon moon relight her horn,
And that bright eye of evening gild the morn.

* * * * *

Yes, stately oak, thy leaf-wrapped head sublime
Ere long must perish in the wrecks of time;
Should o'er thy brow the thunders harmless break,
And thy firm roots in vain the whirlwinds shake
Yet must you fall.—Thy withering glories sunk,
Arm after arm shall leave thy mould'ring trunk."

A white or red marly loam, more or less tenacious, but seldom approaching to the harshness of clay, forms the soil in almost every part of Needwood. About a thousand acres are sufficiently light for turnips, and seven thousand more are equal to the production of the finest

* This noble oak measures twenty-one feet round the trunk, at the height of five feet; the lower stem is ten feet high clear, the whole height sixty-five, and the extent of the arms forty-five feet: it contains one thousand feet of solid timber. Pitt's Survey. Shaw's Staffordshire.

crops of any species of grain, or to the feeding of cattle of the first rate kind. When brought to a proper state of cultivation and improvement, which can easily be effected, and we trust will shortly take place, this tract of country will be one of the most delightful and fertile districts in Great Britain

On the north-west side of the forest is *Ealand Lodge*, the property of Lord Bagot, formerly the residence of the author of *Needwood Forest*, a poem (Francis Noel Clarke Mundy), who thus describes his beautiful retirement:—

“ On this green unambitious brow,
Fair mistress of the vale below,
With sloping hills enclos'd around,
Their heads with oaks and hollies crown'd.
With lucky choice, by happy hands,
Plac'd in good hour my dwelling stands;
And draws the distant traveller's eye,
Enamour'd of its scenery ;
Where all things give what all express,
Content and rural happiness.
Where far retired from life's dull form,
Comes no intruder but the storm ;
The storm, that with contrasted low'r
Endears the fair, the silent hour.
Thus their wise days our fathers led,
Fleet ran their hounds, their arrows sped,
And jocund health with rosy smile
Look'd on, companion of their toil ;
Till tyrant law usurped the land,
Stretch'd o'er the woods his iron hand,
Forbade the echoing horn to blow,
Maim'd the staunch hound, and snapped the bow.*”

* This alludes to the order for *lawing*, or cutting off a claw of all dogs kept within the purlieus of the royal forests, to prevent their destroying the deer.

HANBURY.

HANBURY is an ancient village and parish in Offlow hundred five miles from Burton upon Trent, and one hundred and thirty-one from London—in 1821 it contained twenty-eight houses, and one hundred and forty-seven inhabitants. It is a vicarage, patron, the Bishop of Lichfield.

It is situated north of Needwood forest, upon an eminence that commands a very extensive prospect of the fine meadows that ornament the banks of the Dove, and also the moorlands and Peak hills.

The village is as delightful in summer as it is cold and bleak in winter. Its antiquity is of great standing; Mr. Pitt states that “in the year 680, the Saxon princess St. Werburgh remarkable for her piety, became abbess of a nunnery, founded here by her brother Ethelred, king of Mercia: she was buried in this nunnery; and in the year eight hundred and seventy-five, her bones were removed to Chester, where an elegant shrine was erected to her memory. No vestige of the nunnery is now visible; but it doubtless stood to the east of the present church, human bones having been frequently dug up in the ground now occupied by Mr. Hunt’s garden, and in an adjacent gravel-pit.

A family, who took their name from the place, were lords of this manor at a very early period. At present, it belongs to the Villiers family, who appoint a game-keeper, and claim common rights on Needwood forest: the manor-house commands a most extensive prospect. Hanbury church is an ancient stone edifice, with a square tower; it stands on the edge of a steep declivity, and was formerly a rectory, but is now a vicarage in the deanery of Tamworth. It is dedicated to St. Werburgh, and was founded long before the conquest: the presentation is vested in the bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. In the year 1793, the Rev. Hugh Bailye pulled down the old vicarage-house, and built a new one on the opposite side of the church which commands a charming and extensive prospect.

Extract from the Parish Register.—“On Sunday the fourteenth of September, 1777, about eleven o’clock in the forenoon, a smart shock of an earthquake was felt in several places of this neighbourhood (but not in the village) in some places indeed, particularly Cheshire and Lancashire, it was so violent, that the people fled out of the churches in great terror.”

There are several other interesting villages and hamlets in the parish of Hanbury; the hamlet of Faulde is delightfully situated on a fine natural terrace, rising over the meadows of the Dove.

Coton-under-Needwood, and Draycot-under-Needwood are also manors in the parish of Hanbury; the former, belonging to Charles Adderley, Esq. was greatly improved a few years since: according to the statement of Mr. Pitt, the ancient hall was pulled down, and the present commodious mansion built on its site in 1790, with suitable offices, and extensive and picturesque

gardens and pleasure-grounds. English hospitality prevailed here some years ago, when the social friends, Messrs. Adderley and Scott made it their residence. In the summer months they pitched a tent upon a circular hill above Coton, where a flag was hoisted, when they were at home, as a signal to their friends :

“ O mark upon yon round ascent
The social flag and open tent,
Where life's smooth paths with flowers are strewn,
And mirth makes every hour its own.”

The flag-staff was struck in the year 1796.

Draycot-under-Needwood was another of the manors comprised in the gift of William the Conqueror to Henry-de-Ferrers. It is recorded in Domesday-book, in the following terms : “ The said Henry holds Draicote, which contains half a hide. The arable land is one carucate in demesne, and four villans, and four bordars have two carucates. There are twelve acres of meadow, a wood half a mile in length, and the same in breadth. The whole being valued at fifteen shillings.”

This manor has for ages been in the possession of the ancient family of Vernon, who came originally from a town of that name in Normandy. In the meadow beyond Draycot mills are the ruins of an old mansion, encompassed by a moat with a small drawbridge on the eastern side. This was doubtless the manor-house, or residence of the ancient proprietors. There are several extensive and extremely fertile meadows in the vicinity of Draycot: the turnpike-road from Lichfield to Sudbury passes through this manor.

The lowlands and meadows on the banks of the Dove amply compensate for the exposed and bleak hills that surround it. The daisy, which Montgomery thus beautifully describes, may be found here at almost any period of the year.

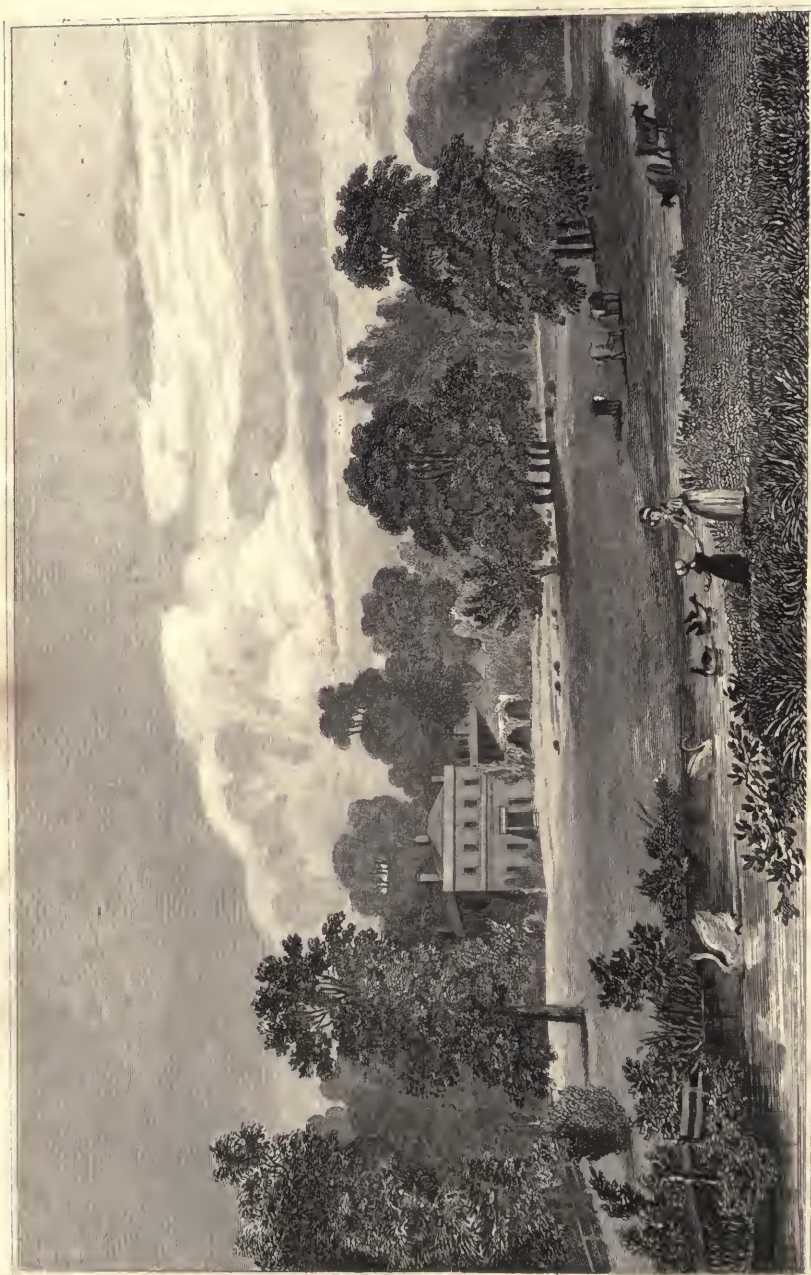
“ There is a flower, a little flower,
With silver crest and golden eye,
That welcomes every changing hour,
And weather's every sky.

The fonder beauties of the field
In gay but quick succession shine,
Race after race their honours yield,
They flourish and decline.

But this small flower to nature dear,
While moon and stars their courses run,
Wreaths the whole circle of the year,
Companion of the sun.

It smiles upon the lap of May,
To sultry August spreads its charms,
Lights pale October on his way,
And twines December's arms.





DRAWN BY F. CALVERT.

SWEETWICK GROVE,
SEAT OF GEORGE BACCHUS, ESQ.

PUBLISHED BY W. EMANS, BROMSGROVE ST. BIRMINGHAM.

ENGRAVED BY T. RADCLIFFE.

The purple heath, and golden broom,
On moory mountains catch the gale.
O'er lawns the lily sheds perfume,
The violet in the vale.

But this bold floweret climbs the hills,
Hides in the forest, haunts the glen,
Plays on the margin of the rills,
Peeps round the fox's den.

Within the garden's cultur'd sound,
It shares the sweet carnations bed ;
And blooms on consecrated ground,
In honour of the dead.

The lambkin crops its crimson gem,
The wild bee murmurs on its breast,
The blue-fly bends its pensile stem,
That decks the skylark's nest.

"Tis Flora's page :—in every place
In every season fresh and fair,
It opens with perennial grace,
And blossoms every-where.

On waste and woodland, rock and plain,
Its humble buds unheeded rise ;
The Rose has but a summer's reign
The Daisy never dies."

SMETHWICK.

SMETHWICK has become a place of considerable importance, from its contiguity to Birmingham, and from the advantage of the Birmingham canal passing through it. It is a township in Harborne parish, four miles west by north from Birmingham, and one hundred and sixteen from London. In 1811 it contained six hundred and thirty-one males, and six hundred and ninety-seven females, total one thousand three hundred and twenty-eight. In 1821 it contained three hundred and thirty-four houses, and one thousand nine hundred and fifty inhabitants. Mr.

Pitt says that this manor was formerly the joint property of Mr. John Reynolds, and Mr. John Baddeley; the latter gentleman was a native of Shropshire, a most ingenious self-taught mechanic, and mathematical instrument maker. In 1819 a neat chapel was erected here from a liberal donation of Mrs. Dorothy Parkes and other voluntary contributions. There are several considerable manufactories in the neighbourhood.

Smithfield Grove, the residence of ——— Bacchus, Esq. is a neat and handsome structure: the scenery around it is very beautiful, and the grounds are laid out with great taste.

MARCHINGTON.

MARCHINGTON is a small village or township and chapelry, in the parish of Hanbury, in Offlow hundred, three miles south-east from Uttoxeter, and one hundred and five from London. In 1821 it contained one hundred and thirty-seven houses, and seven hundred and eighty-one inhabitants, including Marchington-Woodlands, forming a second township which consists of several detached taverns and houses, rising a mile westward of Marchington chapel. Marchington village also gradually rises on the southern side of the *woody theatre* of Needwood forest, and is bounded on the north, by the beautiful river Dove. The manor belongs to the Talbot family.—Pitt says that the earliest record of this manor is in the will of Wulfric Spot, the founder of Burton abbey, dated A. D. 1004, in which he grants it to Wulfug. It was afterwards part of the demesne lands appertaining to the honour of Tutbury, given by the Conqueror to Henry de Ferrers, and is thus mentioned in the survey recorded in Domesday-book: “Henry holds Merchametone, in which are two hides, and in Edgarsley, one virgat of land. Ulric formerly held it, and was a freeman. The arable land is seven carucates; in demesne there are two, with one servant, eighteen villains, and nine bordars, who have three carucates; there are forty acres of meadow, a wood affording pasture for cattle or deer, three miles in length and one mile and a half in breadth:” the whole was then valued at one hundred shillings.

WHICHNOR.

WHICHNOR is situated on an eminence on the northern bank of the Trent, midway between Burton and Lichfield ; several curious customs are attached to this village and manor. It was held in the tenth year of the reign of Edward III. by Philip de Somerville, under John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, lord of the honour of Tutbury ; Sir Philip held this and other adjoining manors, under the tenure of keeping a flitch of bacon hanging in his hall at Whichnor, at all seasons except during Lent, as a reward to any male or female, who could swear that he or she had been united in Wedlock, a year and a day without repenting ; and that if they were single, and to be married again, the demandant would take the same party again, in preference to any other. The following is an extract translated from the ancient charter, originally written in French.

“ Nevertheless the said Sir Philip shall fynde meyntienge and susteyne, one bacon flyke hanging in his halle, at *Wichenore*, ready arrayed all tymes of the yere, bott in *Lent*, to be given to everyche mane or womane married, after the day and yere of their marriage be passed ; and to be given to everyche mane or womane married, after the day and yere of their marriage be passed ; and to be given to everyche man of religion, archbishop, prior, or other religious ; and to everyche preest, after the year and day of their profession finished or of their dignity, reseyved in forme following. Whensoever that any such before named wylle come for to enquire for the baconne in their on person, or by any other for them, they shall come to the bayliff or porter of the lordship of *Whichenour*, and shall say to them in the manere as ensewethe :

“ Bayliff or porter, I doo you to know that I am come for myself (or, if he come for any other shewing for whome) one bacon flyke, hanging in the halle of the lord of *Whichenour*, after the forme thereto longinge.

“ After which relation, the bailiffe or porter shal assigne a daye to him, upon promise of his feythe to return, and with him to bring tweyne of his neighbours, and in the meyn time the said bailif shall take with him tweyne of the freeholders of the lordship of *Whichenoure*, and they three shal goe to the mannour of *Rudlowe*, belonging to *Robert Knyghtley*, and there shall somon the foresaid *Knightley*, or his bayliffe, commanding him to be ready at Whichenour, the day appointed at pryme of day with his carriage ; that is to say, a horse and sadyle, a sakke, and a pryke, for to convey and carry the said bacon and corn a journey out of the county of *Stafford* at his costages ; and then the sayd bailiffe shall with the said freeholders, somon all the tenants of the said manoir to be ready at the day appointed at *Whichenour*, for to doe and performe the services to the baconne. And at the day assigned all such as owe services to the baconne shall be ready at the gate of the manoir, from the sonne risinge to none, attendyng and awayting for the comyng of him and his felowys chapaletts, and to all those whiche shal be

there to doe their services due to the baconne: and they shall lead the said demandant, wythe tromps and tabours, and other manner of mynstralseye to the halle close where he shal fynde the lord of *Whichenour*, ready to deliver the baconne in this manere.

“He shall enquire of him which demandeth the baconne, if he hath brought tweyne of his neighbours; who must answer, *They be here redy*; and then the steward shall cause these two neighbours to swere yf the said demandant be a weddyt man, or have be a man weddyt, and yf syth his marriage one yere and a day be passed, and yf he be a freeman or villeyne: and yf his seid neighbours make othe that he hath for hym all these three points rehersed, then shal the bacon be take downe and brought to the halle dore, and shall there be layed upon one half a quarter of wheatte, and upon one other of rye; and he that demandeth the baconne shall kneel upon his knee, and shall hold his right hand upon a booke, which shall be laid above the baconne and the corne, and shall make oath in this manere.

“Here ye Sir *Philip de Somervyle*, lord of *Whichenour*, mayntayner and giver of this baconne, that I A. syth I wedded B. my wife, and syth I had her in my kepyng and at wylle by a yere and a daye after our marryage, I would not have changed for none other, farer ne fowler, richer ne powrer, ne for none other descended of gretter lynage, slepyng ne waking, at noo tyme, and if the seid B. were sole and I sole, I wolde take her to be my wife before all the wymen of the world, and of what conditions soevere they be, good or evyle, as help me God, and his seyntyng, and this flesh and all fleshes.

“And his neighbours shal make oath that they trust verily he hath said truely. And yf it be founde by his neighbours aforenamed, that he be a freeman, there shall be delyvered to him halfe a quarter of wheatte, and a cheese; and yf he be a villein, he shall have half a quarter of rye, withoutte cheese and then shal *Knyghtley* the lord of *Rudlowe*, be called for to carry all their things to fore rehersed, and the said corn shall be leyed upon one horse, an the baconne apperteyneth, shal ascend upon his horse, and shall take the chese before hym, if he have a horse, and yf he have none, the lord of *Whichenour*, shall cause him to have one horse, and sadyl, to such tyme as he passed his lordshippe, and so shal they departe the manoyr of *Whichenour*, with the corn and the baconne to fore him, him that hath wonne ytt, with trompets, tabourets, and other manoir of minstralsee, and all the free tenants of *Whichenour*; shall conduct him to be passed the lordship of *Whichenour*; and then shall they retorne, except hym to whom apperteyneth to make the carriage and journey withoutte the countye of *Stafford* at the costys of his lord of *Whichenour*, and yf the seid *Robert Knyghtley*, do not cause the baconne and corne to be conveyed as is rehersed, the lord of *Whichenour* shal do it to be carryed, and shal distreigne the said *Robert Knyghtley*, for his default for one hundred shillings, in his manoir of *Rudlowe*, and shall kepe the distresse so takyn irreplevisable.”

CARESWELL.

CARESWELL; or, as it is frequently spelled Caverswell, or Caverswall, is celebrated for its castie, built by Sir William de Caverswall, in the reign of Edward II.; it is a very noble and durable structure of stone, with four lower towers ornamenting this stately edifice—which consists of a lofty keep, with an inner court: the whole is surrounded by a deep moat, well supplied with water, rendering it inaccessible. The north-west front leading to the village is concealed by an high wall, extending along the side of the street to the church-yard: strangers are entirely excluded. Pitt describes it as consecrated ground, and states that “in the year 1811, a number of nuns, who had emigrated from France, and settled at Preston in Lancashire, removed to Caverswall Castle, as a more secluded place. This castle, which was sold by the Hon. Booth Grey, to Mr. Brett, a banker, of Stone, in this county, was taken on lease, by Walter Hill Coyney, Esq. of Weston Coyney, for the nuns; and the sisterhood, amounting to sixteen in number, with their confessor, came hither. This priest, who is a man of very agreeable manners, has taken much pains to convert several of the peasantry of the parish to the principles of Catholicism. His success, however, has not been commensurate to his zeal; when he has any thing to bestow upon them, they are mean and willing enough to receive it; but he has discovered that the majority of his converts come to the chapel in Caverswall Castle more for the hope of gain than the hope of salvation. In the mean time, the nuns are sufficiently active in the good work of instructing young ladies in the principles of their faith, and they have at present, about thirty pupils in progress. Their discipline is sufficiently strict; the pupils wear an uniform of buff-coloured cotton; they are not suffered to ramble beyond the bounds of the gravel-walk which surrounds the moat, and two or three small fields; they walk two and two, like other boarding-school girls, and in their half-hour’s exercise along the walk in the garden, are required, as a religious duty, to utter their ave-marias and pater-nosters in a low voice. The nuns themselves may be termed the Black Ladies. Their dress is entirely sable, with long thick black veils thrown over the right shoulder. Their demeanour is grave, and they generally walk with a book in their hands. Their countenances are pleasing and pensive; and if a man approach them, they turn away as if they feared the imputation of vanity, or were in danger of weakening their principles by gratifying the eye of curiosity.”

Caverswall is a parish in Totmanslow hundred, three miles west of Cheadle, and one hundred and forty-six from London. In 1801, it contained about one hundred and fifty houses, and eight hundred inhabitants. In 1811, the parish, including the township of Weston Coyney and Hulmes, contained one hundred and seventy houses, and nine hundred inhabitants. In 1821, Caverswall parish alone was returned as containing ninety-two houses, and five hundred and fifty-five inhabitants. It is a vicarage valued, in the King’s Books, at £7. 5s. 5d.

Of its ancient history, Mr. Nightingale gives the following account :—" Towards the latter end of the reign of Edward II. Sir William de Careswell built a large, and uncommonly strong, stone Castle, at this place, and surrounded it by extensive ponds, and a deep mote, with a draw-bridge. The heads of the ponds had square turrets, for farther defence of the place. It was, for a long time, the chief seat of the ancient and noble family of the Vanes, now extinct." The old *Magna Britannia* gives the following account of this castle :—" Careswell, or Caverswell, was, 20 Conq. held of Robert de Stafford, by Ernulph de Helling, but hath long been the lordship of a family of that name, antient and gentile, descended, probably, from him ; for, in the reign of Richard the First, one Thomas de Careswell, knight, whose grandson William de Careswell, erected a goodly castle in this place ; the pools, dams, and houses of office, being all masonry. His posterity enjoyed it till 19th of Edward the Third, when, by the heir-general, it passed from the Careswells to the Montgomeries ; and from them, by the Giffords and Ports, to the family of Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon, who were owners of it in the last century, [the seventeenth] and, as we suppose, are still. The castle, in the beginning of that century, was in reasonable good repair ; but was suffered to run into decay (if not ruinated on purpose) by one Brown, the farmer of the lands about it, lest his lord should be at any time in the mind to live there, and take the domain from him. It hath been since sold to Matthew Cradock, Esq. in whose posterity it was in 1655, but is since come to Captain Packer."* This Matthew Cradock was the son of George Cradock of Stafford, a wool merchant, who was clerk of the assize of this circuit ;† he built a good house on the part of the site of the castle : of this house, Plot,‡ and Mr. Grose have both given engraved views. It was after this place had passed out of the hands of the Cradocks, that it became the property of William, Viscount Vane, of Ireland, who possessed it in right of his mother, the daughter and coheir of Sir William Jolliffe, Knt. who married Mary, daughter of Ferdinando, the sixth earl of Huntingdon.§ It is now the property of the Hon. Booth Grey, brother of the earl of Stamford. Leland|| calls it "the castel or prati pile of *Cauerwell*."

In *Careswell Church* is a monument erected to the memory of William de Careswell, the builder of the castle. It bears the following inscription :

"Willielmus de Careswellis."

This is at the head. Surrounding it is this distich :

"Catri structor eram, domibus, fossisq ; cemento
Vivis dans operam, nunc claudor in hoc monumento."

Anglice :

"I built this castle, with its rampiers round,
For the use of the living, who am under ground."

* *Magna Brit. in loco.*

Erdeswicke, p. 86, *spud* Gough's Camden, 11. 507.

Sir E. Brydges' Collins' Peerage, vol. vi. p. 660.

† Holland's Camden. Degge, MS. N. on Plot, p. 448.

‡ Nat. Hist. Staff. plate xxxvii.

|| It. vii. 36.

According to Erdeswicke, the following lines were subsequently written on this monument :

“ William of Careswell here lye I,
That built this castle, and pooles hereby :
William of Careswell here thou mayest lye ;
But thy castle is down, and thy pooles are dry.”*

It has been thought, that this latter portion of the stanza was written to excite the attention of the owner of the castle to its ruinous state, and to induce him to notice the rapacious conduct of his tenant Brown. The former portion, it will be observed, is an imperfect translation of the original Latin epitaph.

HAMSTALL RIDWARE, PIPE RIDWARE,

AND

MAVESYN RIDWARE,

ARE all manors to which considerable historical interest is attached, particularly the latter, which is bounded on the south by the southern bank of the Trent ; on the east by Hamstall Ridware ; on the north by the river Blythe, and on the west by the parish of Colton. After the conquest, this manor was given by William I. to Roger de Montmorency, and it was subsequently held under him by Azeline, another adventurous follower of the conqueror. It is supposed to have passed in right of blood from Azeline, to the family of the Mavysns, and according to Pitt's account, “ the manor continued in the possession of the Mavesyn family for ten generations.” In the year 1403, Sir Robert Mavesyn, Knt. was slain at the battle of Shrewsbury. It appears that a feud had previously existed between this gentleman and Sir William Handsacre ; and their animosity was influenced by the civil war. An authentic account of the termination of the quarrel between these knights is preserved in Latin in the British Museum, to the following purport. The river Trent flows with a clear stream by Mavesyn Ridware, so called because on its southern bank is situated the ancient inheritance of the Mavesyns. The inhabitants say that a jealousy subsisting between the families of Mavesyn and Handsacre, it so

* Magna Brit. v. p. 99.

happened when Henry IV. had obtained the crown of England from Richard I., and it was rumoured that Percy, of Northumberland, was in arms against the king; Mauvesin had ridden forth with six or seven of his vassals on the part of King Henry: it chanced also that Handsacre, who espoused the opposite cause, had left home the same day, with an equal number of attendants, to join Percy. These rivals met, and, inflamed with rage, rushed furiously to battle; Handsacre was slain; and the victorious Mauvesin, proud of his conquest, marching to Shrewsbury, there lost his life, fighting valiantly for the king. Mauvesin and Handsacre fought on an open flat meadow, just above High-bridge, in Mavesyn Ridware, lying on the side of the Trent between their respective mansions, which are in sight of each other. Sir Robert left behind him two daughters: Margaret, the younger daughter, became the wife of Sir William Handsacre, Knt., and thus terminated a feud which had been so fatal. Sir John Carvarden, Knt. married Elizabeth the eldest daughter, and co-heiress of Sir Robert Mavesyn; and the manor devolved on their descendants for seven generations. In the eighth year of James I., A. D. 1611, this mansion and its dependencies were possessed by Gerard Stanley, Gent. of Harlaston, in this county, and John Chadwick, Esq., of Wadelane House, in Mavesyn Ridware. Mr. Chadwick in right of his wife, became possessed of the ancient manor house, with five parts in eight of the manor, and the whole of the fishery. In 1600 he became sole lord of Pipe Ridware, with lands, and the fishery of the Trent down to King's Bromley, by purchase. In 1600 he gave the manor of Pipe Ridware to Henry Agarde, Esq. of King's Bromley, in exchange for lands in Mavesyn Ridware, and a fishery in the Trent, within Armitage, and Handsacre, above High-bridge, so that he extended his right to both sides of the river.

“Mavesyn Ridware has continued in the family of the Chadwicks for upwards of two centuries.”

CONCLUSION.

It was originally intended to describe in this work, only a few of the principal towns, and the seats of the nobility and gentry, ancient castles, &c., without entering into a general dry topographical detail. It will be found, however, that not only all the *market towns*, but the principal villages, and the most picturesque objects have been noticed.

Similar descriptions of gentlemen's seats, with regard to situation, scenery, &c. has been almost unavoidable, nor could the whole be described, without entering into a work of treble the extent of the present one; we therefore hope to be pardoned for any places that may be omitted, particularly where no historical record, or object of antiquity, is connected with them.

We cannot, however, conclude more appropriately, than by giving the origin, and general feature of the county, in a *compressed* form, as so many elaborate, and expensive works upon the subject, are already before the public.

This county successively belonged to the ancient *Cornavii* of the Britons, the division of *Flavia Cæsarensis* of the Romans, and the kingdom of *Mercia*, during the Saxon Heptarchy. We shall not enter into the different etymologies and various opinions as to particular names of places.

The original great features of the county, the two Roman military ways, Watling and Icknield-street, pass through it; the former entering it near Tamworth, Warwickshire, proceeding westward into Shropshire: Icknield-street, passes out of Warwickshire into Staffordshire, at Handsworth near Birmingham, proceeds beyond Shenstone, where it crosses Watling-street and continues in a direction north-east by north, over the river Dove, at Monk's bridge* in Derbyshire. A difference of opinion, however, and even a variation in the maps, respecting the descriptions and derivations of this road, and the exact positions of the Roman stations, occur in various writers.

Staffordshire is a long narrow tract of country, entirely inland, extending about sixty miles, at its greatest length, north north-east, to south south-west: its greatest breadth, thirty-eight miles, from Newton Salney, to Terbey Heath, near Market Drayton; to Drayton in Shropshire.† The number of acres in pasture, arable, and in woods, waters, and wastes, with the number of houses, inhabitants, the poor and parochial rates, &c. in 1801, are thus given by Mr.

* Plott's Staff. p. 400. † Pitt's Agricultural Survey of Staff. p. 2.

Nightingale. "It then contained about seven hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred acres of land, of which one hundred thousand were pasture, five hundred thousand arable, and the remaining one hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred, woods, wastes, waters, &c. By the census of the foregoing year, it appears that there were forty-five thousand, one hundred and ninety-eight houses, two hundred and thirty-nine thousand, one hundred and fifty-three inhabitants; of which one hundred and eighteen thousand, six hundred and ninety-eight were males, and one hundred and twenty thousand four hundred and fifty-five females; out of the foregoing, seventy-two thousand four hundred and sixty-five were employed in trade and manufactures, and forty-three thousand nine hundred and thirty in agricultural pursuits. The poor's rates in 1803 amounted to £110,624, at 4s. 2½d. in the pound, and the property assessment in 1806 was £1,840,961. The parochial rates since that period have arisen to a still more alarming extent. In little more than twelve months before the year 1795, they advanced in one parish (Tattenhall) fifty per cent. The conclusion, (continues Mr. N.) therefore, if we had not actual observation to confirm our statement, is rational, that the amount of the poor's rates, since that period, has advanced in an equal proportion."

This, we conceive, will be found erroneous; 1795 was a period of the war, at which the poor's rates suddenly rose to an alarming extent; if they had continued to advance until 1806, and from that period to the present time, in a similar proportion, they would have been insupportable.

In addition to Mr. Pitt's and Nightingale's statement, of the contents of the county in acres, population, &c., it has been deemed necessary to give the last statement according to the parliamentary returns of 1821, and by which a comparative estimate of twenty years preceding, may be formed. Mr. Capper, of the secretary of state's office, thus describes the county. "Staffordshire, a county of England, bounded on the north-east by Derbyshire, on the east by Leicestershire, on the south-east by Warwickshire, on the south by Worcestershire, on the west by Salop, and on the north-west by Cheshire. Its length from north to south is about sixty miles, and its greatest breadth thirty-eight: it contains seven hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred acres of land, having about five hundred thousand arable, and one hundred thousand in pasturage. It is divided into five hundreds; viz. Cuttlestone, Offlow, Pirchill, Seisdon, and Totmanslow, in which are one city, Lichfield; three boroughs, Stafford, Newcastle, and Tamworth; sixteen market-towns; viz. Abbot's Bromley, Brewwood, Burton, Burslem, Cheadle, Eccleshall, Leek, Longnor, Penkridge, Rudgeley, Stone, Tutbury, Uttoxeter, Walsall, Wednesbury, and Wolverhampton; and one hundred and eighty-one parishes; the whole containing sixty-three thousand three hundred and nineteen houses, and three hundred and forty-one thousand and forty inhabitants; viz. one hundred and seventy-one thousand six hundred and sixty-eight males, and one hundred and sixty-nine thousand three hundred and seventy-two females, of whom forty-two thousand four hundred and thirty-five families are employed in trade and manufactures, and eighteen thousand two hundred and eighty-five only, in agriculture. The amount of the assessment under the act granting the property tax, in 1815, was £1,840,961., and the amount of money collected for the maintenance of the poor in 1815, was £110,624.; being at the rate of 4s. 2½d. in the pound; this county pays seven parts of the land tax, and sends ten members to parliament; viz. two for the county, two for Lichfield, and two for each

of the boroughs. The average scale of mortality, for ten years, appears to have been as one to fifty-six, of the population.

Its principal river is the Trent, which rises in the moorlands near Leek, running southerly till it meets the Thame, about eight miles from Rudgeley on the border of Derbyshire; thence it turns north to Burton, where it becomes navigable, and passing through the counties of Derby, Nottingham, and Lincoln, falls into the Umler near Burton: there are several inferior streams all running into the Trent. The Severn enters the county at the south-west corner, and passes into Shropshire.

The face of the county is various; in the northern part is a range of hills that run on as far as Scotland, the loftiest of them being about one thousand five hundred feet above the level of the Trent. The climate of this county is various, but on the whole, inclines to wet. The valley along the Trent, is for the most part very fertile, and beautifully adorned with seats and plantations. The great forest of *Cannoc*, in the centre, once covered with oaks, has long been a wide, naked tract. The agricultural produce is wheat, rye, barley, oats, hemp, flax, and all kinds of kitchen vegetables. Coal is abundant in various parts, and supplies the numerous iron works, and manufactories established at Wolverhampton, Wednesbury, Newcastle, &c. Iron, limestone, copper, and lead ores, and also marble and freestone, are found in different parts of the county. The manufactures of Stafford, are various and extensive, and principally arise from the various branches of the iron trade and the potteries. This county has long been noted for its potteries, and the perfection to which it has been brought of late years, by the ingenious inventions of Mr. Wedgewood, renders it a very important object of commerce, both foreign and domestic. By canal navigation, it communicates with Birmingham, Stourbridge, Bristol, Liverpool, and Hull. The public roads are, for the most part, kept in good repair.

Staffordshire is included in the Oxford circuit, the province of Canterbury, and the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry. There are some ancient camps, and the Romans had four military stations in this county; viz. *Mediolanum*, now Knightly; *Uriconium*, now Wrottesley; *Uracona*, now Lichfield; and *Etocetum*, now Barbeacon, a village near Lichfield.

Of the original inhabitants of Staffordshire, there is a great diversity of opinion, between Camden, Gough, Dr. Plott, Shaw, and others; we can only therefore, refer to those writers, each of whom endeavours to fix certain boundaries to the settlement of the *Iceni*, the *Ordovices*, the *Cornabii*, &c. Salmon confines the original inhabitants of this county to the two maritime counties of *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*; to enter into the particulars, and the wars that waged here in early days, would exceed our boundary.

Of the ecclesiastical history of Staffordshire, Mr. Nightingale coincides with Mr. Shaw, and states that "Mr. Shaw was of opinion that in the days of Druidism, the chief seat of the arch-druid of Britain, was situated in the vicinity of Sutton Coldfield, which anciently formed a portion of the forest of Cauk, or Cannoc. This conclusion is drawn from a combination of evidence which we confess to us appears to possess considerable weight. The forest of Cannoc lying nearly in the centre of England, corresponds with the position of the well authenticated residence of that supreme priest of the continental countries. An extensive common here still bears the name of Drood or Druid-heath. On this spot it is supposed the people were annually accustomed to assemble to have their disputes, civil and religious, finally decided by the arch-

druid. The words Cannoc, and Coldfield, though unquestionably of Saxon origin, Mr. Shaw says, bear an evident relation in meaning, to druidical religious rites. Besides these circumstances in support of this notion, there are two large areas, immediately adjoining, which cannot be well accounted for, except upon the supposition of their being the summer and winter habitations of this sovereign Druid. A third area of smaller dimensions, which is placed at the east end of the heath, may probably have been appropriated for the reception of some of his more illustrious attendants. Add to all this, the position of the areas, particularly that now called Knaves' Castle, than which perhaps there is not a spot in England, better adapted for making observations in astronomy, the favorite pursuit of the Druids. The summit of Barbeacon hill adjoining, commands an open and extensive view of Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Worcestershire, besides several counties in Wales. If, therefore, as we are informed, high hills were the points from which, by means of fire, these priests gave notice to the country of their quarterly sacrifices, what places could be found more suitable to their purpose than this?"

Paganism continued to reign among the inhabitants of Staffordshire, forming part of Mercia, till the reign of Penda, subsequent to its abolition in other states; and, according to Mr. Nightingale's account "Oswy, in conjunction with Penda, remained in possession of Mercia for the space of three years, during which time Christianity was declared the established religion, and the cathedral of Lichfield founded. At the end of this period, however, the inhabitants, weary of subjection to a foreign master, revolted, and having proved successful in gaining their independence, conferred the crown on Wulfhere, one of the sons of Penda, who still embraced the Pagan idolatry." Wulfhere's prejudices continued so inflexible against Christianity, that he caused two of his sons to be put to death, for professing it,—an account of which appears in another portion of this work.

Between Tamworth and Lichfield, in the surrounding *Hopwas*, are several beautiful seats, among which, are Packington Hall, the residence of the Rev. Thomas Levett; Comberford Hall, William Tongue, Esq.; Hints Hall, W. H. C. Comber, Esq.; Swinfen Hall, J. Swinfen, Esq.

In the beautiful and interesting part of the county, surrounding Lichfield, are the delightful residences of the following personages who occupy them:—Freeford Hall, Mrs. Dyott; Berryhill Cottage, John Standly, Esq.; Beacon-place, Mrs. Hand; Mapel Hayes, J. Atkinson, Esq.; Pipe Grange, Rev. Canon Bailye; Stow House, Richard Gresley, Esq.; Stow-hill, the Misses Mills and Furnivall; The Palace, Lady Oakley; Elmhurst Hall, John Smith, Esq.; Liswiss hall, Mrs. Tyson; and near the latter, Haunch Hall, John Breynton, Esq.

At Longdon, we have already noticed Beaudesert, the seat of the Marquis of Anglesea; and at Brereton, Armitage Park, the seat of T. Lister, Esq. has also been described. At Breton is the seat of Miss Sneyd; and near it Lea Hall, J. Webb, Esq.; and Ravenhill, the Hon. Orlando Bridgeman.

At Rudgeley is Hagley park, the Hon. H. Curzon (already described), and Stowe House, Mrs. Hopkins.

At Wolseley Bridge is Haywood House, Colonel Master; Wolseley Hall has already been noticed.

Near Milford is a fine triumphal arch, and near it an obelisk also Brocton Hall. William

Chetwynd, Esq.; Brocton Lodge, Sir George Chetwynd; Milford Hall, Rev. R. Leggett; Ingestrie Hall (already described), Earl Talbot; Milford Cottage, — Hanbury, Esq.; and Tixall Hall, Sir Thomas Aston Clifford, Constable, Bart., which has already been described; Tixall Abbey is a fine specimen of ancient English architecture, and the place altogether, has considerable historical interest attached to it.

In taking a cursory view of the great number of seats of the nobility and gentry in this county, and in meeting the wishes of many of the patrons to the work, that it should not be rendered expensive, or be carried to too great an extent, it would not admit of inserting views and descriptions of the *whole* of them within the proposed limits and intentions of the proprietor. We shall, therefore, in a short retrospect, enumerate such places as have not already been noticed, and in recapitulating others, refer to the immediate neighbourhoods in which they are situate.

At about a mile distant from Tamworth, is Drayton Manor-house and Park, the seat of Sir Robert Peel, and near it is Bonehill, the seat of Edmund Peel, Esq. Tamworth Castle is inhabited by — Bramall, Esq.; we have already given an account of Tamworth and its castle; another account describes this ancient and interesting pile, which stands on an artificial mount, as having rather a sombre appearance, but, from its elevated situation, diffuses an air of considerable grandeur around, and commands some highly picturesque prospects. The apartments, though numerous, are not of fine proportion, if we except the dining and drawing rooms, the former of which display a number of the coats of arms of the Ferrers' family, and the other a very richly sculptured chimney piece.

It was at the old mansion of Tixall, the seat of Lord Aston, that Lord Stafford was said to have resided, and afterwards made prisoner in 1680, when he was charged with treason against the state. In speaking of him, and the strong party opposed to him, Smollett says "they resolved to wreak their vengeance upon Lord Stafford, one of the prisoners in the tower, uncle to the Duke of Norfolk, a nobleman of narrow understanding, and already overwhelmed with age and infirmities. On the thirtieth day of November, he was brought to trial by his peers, the chancellor, now created Earl of Nottingham, being appointed Lord High-steward for the occasion. The evidences against him were Dugdale, Oates, and Tuberville; the first deposed that Lord Stafford, at Tixhall, the house of Lord Aston, had tempted him with the offer of five hundred pounds, to murder the king. Oates swore, that he saw Lord Stafford, receive from Fenwick, a commission for being paymaster-general to the army. Tuberville declared, that he had conversed with Lord Stafford at Paris, where he promised to make his fortune, if he would assassinate the king, who was a heretic, and a rebel against God Almighty. The prisoner made such a defence as equally surprised his friends and enemies; he proved Dugdale to be a knave, who had cheated Lord Aston, defrauded his servants, and contracted debts, for which he had been committed to prison, from whence he had no other way of extricating himself but by turning informer. He likewise made it appear that he was not at Tixall on the day mentioned by the evidence; he invalidated the testimony of Oates, by enumerating the omissions, additions, and palpable contradictions in his former depositions; by reminding the court of his perfidious dissimulation in point of religion; his solemn abjurations and execrations to support that false-

hood by which he owed his credit was established among the jesuits; and the improbability that a man concerned in a conspiracy of such importance, should have been abandoned to that misery with which he was oppressed when he turned informer. He proved that Tuberville had eloped from a convent, and turned trooper in the French service, from whence he had deserted; that he lived in the utmost indigence in London, and had been heard to say, "By God! there is no better business than that of an informer:" and his servants swore they had never seen Tuberville with their lord, either in France or in England. The prisoner observed, that through a course of forty years he had preserved his loyalty, in the midst of danger, difficulty, and civil confusion; and that it was not credible he should now, in his old age, when broken with infirmities, renounce the ease and affluence he enjoyed, to belye his former conduct, and engage in such a villanous conspiracy against his sovereign, who had been always to him remarkably generous and indulgent."

Notwithstanding the strength of his defence, the simplicity of his deportment, and his pathetic protestations of innocence, he was convicted of high treason by a majority of four and twenty voices. Hearing the verdict, he exclaimed, "God's holy name be praised!" When the high-steward gave him to understand that the peers would intercede with his majesty, that his sentence might be mitigated into decapitation, he shed a flood of tears, telling them he was not moved to this weakness by the fear of death, but by a deep sense of their goodness. Though he was not afraid to die, he discovered a desire of life; and sent a message to the lords, intimating that he would discover all he knew of any designs against the government. Being brought to the house, he disclosed some schemes in which he had been concerned, for obtaining a toleration in favour of the Catholics; and mentioned the earl of Shaftesbury as one who had undertaken to procure this indulgence. The lords would not suffer him to proceed; but remanded him to the Tower, where he began to prepare for death with equal courage and resignation. On the twenty-ninth day of December he was brought to the scaffold, where, in the most earnest manner, he declared himself innocent of the crimes laid to his charge. He spoke of the witnesses with charity and compassion, disavowed all the murdering and immoral principles imputed to the Roman Catholics, and expressed his hope that the public would soon be undeceived, and do justice to his injured reputation. The populace were melted at the meekness, piety, and resignation of this ancient nobleman, whose character had been always untainted, till the date of this accusation. When he repeated his protestations with regard to his innocence, they cried aloud; "We believe you, my lord — God bless you, my lord," Even the executioner was softened; he could not perform his office without hesitation, and marks of sympathy; and when he held up the head, according to custom, exclaiming, "this is the head of a traitor," no expression of assent was heard: all was still, silent, and sorrowful.

This was the last blood shed on account of that pretended conspiracy, which was invented by a few needy miscreants, for the purpose of raising themselves from indigence and contempt; and afterwards fostered by a dangerous faction, to blow up the flames of discord through the kingdom. To answer this perfidious aim, they scrupled not to abuse a whole people; to exasperate them into a savage disregard of truth and common justice; and to exercise such acts of barbarity as will remain upon record, an indelible stain upon the character of the nation. The





DOVE CLIFF

SEAT OF T. THORNTON, ESQ.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Engraved by H. J. P. 1840

Engraved by H. J. P.

Engraved by H. J. P.

commons demanded other victims than Lord Stafford, who had disappointed them greatly, in the hope they had conceived that he would make some discovery that would serve to keep up the general ferment, which now began to subside.

Of the ancient manor and parish of Tixall, which is situate in Pircill hundred, about four miles from Stafford, it was, in the twentieth year of the reign of William the Conqueror, held of him by Roger de Montmorency. In the reign of Henry II. it was held by Pegasus de Gastenois, and in whose family it continued for many generations, the latter branch of which took the name of Wartney. Roger Wartney leaving only a daughter, and she (who was married to Sir John Mavestone) leaving no issue, the Littletons succeeded to the estate, it passed from them to the Astons. One of whom (Sir Edward) erected Tixall Hall; to which a noble gate-house of stone; was added by Sir Walter Aston, in the sixteenth century. The old mansion fell into a state of decay, and was dismantled, and the present neat structure erected in its stead in 1780.

The manor of Tixall, is the property of Sir Thomas Aston Clifford Constable, whose family we have already given an account of.

The situation of the parish of Tixall is a most pleasing one, for as Pitt remarks—"the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canals pass through it to the south, and forms a beautiful lake, improving the view of the landscape from Tixall-hall." The upland is a rich loam, and the meadows on the banks of the Trent and the Sow, are luxuriantly fertile. A large quarry of excellent free-stone on this estate, supplies great quantities of durable stone for building locks and bridges, for which it is peculiarly well adapted, having the property of resisting the action of water.

Eccleshall Castle.—In our account of Eceleshall, we gave same account of this, its principal feature. The castle is occupied by the bishop of Lichfield and Coventry—and Mogg observes respecting it "this building was founded at so early a period, that by whom, history does not make mention." Bishop Muschamp, was, however, empowered by license from King John, about the year 1200, to embattle the castle, and make a park here; so that a castellated edifice must have existed for some years prior to that period. In 1310 it was entirely rebuilt and established as the principal residence of the Bishop of Lichfield, by Walter de Langton, but his successors do not appear to have occupied it much till near the end of the seventeenth century, at which time, being perfectly untenable from having stood a severe siege in the king's cause during the civil wars, it was thoroughly repaired, and the whole of the south front entirely renewed in 1695, and it has ever since been the constant residence of the bishops of that diocese.

Near to Eccleshall Castle is Brockton Hall; and at Sugnall near Croxton, is the residence of the Misses Swinnerton.

At Broughton is Charness Hall the seat of W. Yonge, Esq.; and Broughton Hall, Rev. H. Delves, Broughton. At Stapenhill, the seats of William Davenhill, Esq., and Mrs. Clay.

In the neighbourhood of Burton upon Trent are several handsome seats, among others, is Dove Cliff, Thomas Thornville, Esq.; Rolleston Hall, Sir Oswald Mosley, Bart.

Near Tutbury is Needwood house, Robert Stone Esq.; and at Wichnor* Catton Hall, Robert John William Horton, Esq.

* At Wichnor is also Wichnor Lodge, Theophilus Leggett, Esq.; and Orgreave Hall, Viscount Anson.

Near Elford Mill, Elford Hall, the seat of the Honorable Greville Howard.

Near Branston is Dunstall, the seat of Charles Arkwright, Esq.; and Rangemoor, John Rigby, Esq.

LICHFIELD—Elmhurst Hall, J. Smith, Esq.

WOLSELEY BRIDGE—Park House, Bellamour House, J. Oldham, Esq.

The beautiful mansion of Bellamour House, the seat of J. Oldham, Esq., of which we have given a view, lies embosomed amid a variety of fine trees, backed by a fine hilly country richly furnished with scenery; the front view from it is also a delightful one, indeed the scenery ornamenting the seats surrounding Wolseley Bridge, stand unrivalled.

GREAT HAYWOOD—Shugborough, Viscount Anson; Haywood House, Colonel Master.

SHIRLEYWICH—Ingestrie Hall, Earl Talbot; Wichdon Lodge, William Moore, Esq.

STONE—Broom's Cottage, W. B. Meeke, Esq.

DARLASTON—Darlaston Hall, Swinfen Jervis, Esq.; Meaford Hall, Lord Viscount St. Vincent; Parkfields, Miss Wedgewood.

SWINNERTON—Swinerton Park, T. Fitzherbert, Esq.

TRENTHAM INN—Longton Hall, R. E. Heathcote, Esq.; Trentham Park, Marquis of Stafford; Maer Hall; Josiah Wedgewood, Esq.

SWINFEN—Swinfen Hall, I. Swinfen, Esq.

RUGELEY—Colton Hall, Mrs. Salt; Bishton Hall, Mrs. Sparrow.

WESTON—Chartley Park, Earl Ferrers.

SANDON—Sandon Hall, Earl Harrowby.

FLASK—Butterton Hall, Thomas Swinnerton, Hugh Smith, Esq.; Stoke Lodge, Thomas Fenton, Esq.; Fenton Hall, William Bishop, Esq.

NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME—Newport House, John Davenport, Esq.; the Cloughs, I. B. Bassett, Esq. Keel Hall, Walter Sneyd, Esq.; the Mount, Josiah Spode, Esq.; Cliff-ville, John Tomlinson, Esq.; Stonyfield, John Anderton, Esq.; Adderley Hall, Sir Andrew Corbett, Bart.; Dimsdale, I. Richard Bennett, Esq.; Watland, Spencer Rogers, Esq.; Broadwall Hall, William Sneyd, Esq.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE—Etruria, Josiah Wedgewood, Esq.; beyond Clough Hall, Thomas Kinnersley, Esq.; Basford Hall, Dr. Richard Bent.

LEEK—Westwood House, John Davenport, Esq.; Ball Hay, F. G. Spilsbury, Esq.; Westwood Hall, Rev. H. Rice; Westwood House, Captain Powis; Wall Grange, Marquis of Stafford; Hare Gate, —Toftchorley, Esq.

CHEADLE—Huntley Hall, Captain Sneyd; Hales Hall; Baddsley Child, Esq.

WOODHEAD, Thomas Thompson, Esq.

ALTON—Alton Abbey, the Earl of Shrewsbury.

HANDSACRE—Bromley Hall, John Newton, Lane, Esq.

TITTENSOR MILL, Barlaston Hall, Ralph Adderley, Esq.

CANNOC—Hilton Hall, Henry Edward Charles Vernon Graham, Esq.

WALSALL—Benton Hall, Hon. Edward Anson; Great Barr Hall, Sir Edward Scott; Charlemont Hall, Thomas Price, Esq.

WOLVERHAMPTON—Woodhouse, Ely Shaw, Esq.; Himley Hall, Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward.





ENGRAVED BY T. HATCHER.

BELLAMOUR HOUSE,
THE SEAT OF J. OLDFHAM ESQ.

FURNISHED BY WEMANS, BRONSLOVE, & NIMKINCHAM.

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STOWERTON CASTLE.
THE SEAT OF MADAM GRAZEBROOK.
PUBLISHED BY W. EMANS, BROMSGROVE, ST. BIRMINGHAM.

Stourton Manor and Castle.—We have omitted to notice this place, which is of some interest, and have given a view of Stourton Castle, which, although stated to be in ruins, is now inhabited by Madam Graisbrook. It is beautifully situated, and the surrounding country is peculiarly fine. This Castle was garrisoned during the civil wars, and in 1644 it surrendered to the King.—It was anciently the property of the Hamptons, one of whose Lords was in possession of it in the fifteenth century. This Castle is also particularly worthy of notice, from the circumstance of the celebrated Cardinal Pole being born in it, in the year 1500. His biographer states that his descent was illustrious, being a younger son of Richard Pole, (Lord Montague) and cousin-german to Henry VII. His mother was Margaret, daughter of George, Duke of Clarence, brother to Edward the Fourth. This Prelate's early education was conducted by a private tutor, from whose charge he was removed, at a proper age, to Magdalen College, Oxford. Having finished his studies, he went into orders, and soon after went abroad to attend the Foreign Universities, during which time he was allowed a very handsome pension by Henry VIII., who likewise conferred upon him several Benefices, *in commendam*. In 1525, he returned to England, and was received by the King with distinguished marks of favour. His Court influence, however, was but of short duration; for, having vigorously opposed the divorce of Catharine of Arragon, he became so obnoxious to Henry, that he was compelled to seek shelter in Italy, where he wrote his celebrated piece, intituled, "*De Unitate Ecclesiastica*." This work exasperated the Monarch so highly, that he not only deprived him of all his preferments, but even caused an Act of Attainder to be passed against him. He did not, however, sustain very material loss by this harsh conduct of his kinsman, for the Court of Rome immediately preferred him to several Benefices in Italy, and raised him to the dignity of a Cardinal. Upon the death of Pope Paul the Third he was twice elected to the vacant Throne, but declined the honour, because one election was too hasty and the other made in the night time. This truly commendable delicacy so much disobliged his friends, that they no longer afforded him their support, and in consequence the Bishop of Paletrina obtained the Papal See. Immediately after Queen Mary ascended the Throne of England the attainder against the Cardinal was repealed, and he returned with distinguished honour to his native country. His first act, upon his arrival, was to absolve the kingdom from the Papal Interdict, under which it laboured on account of the apostacy of Henry VIII. He was advanced to the Archbishopric of Canterbury, but enjoyed this situation only a few months, having died on the 17th of November, 1558, the same day on which the Queen herself expired.*

Stourton has been remarked, as well as the Hyde (about a mile above Kinver) as having an iron rod mill, for rolling or slitting iron. Dr. Wilkes states that the iron rolling mill at the Hyde, was the first that was erected in England, and observes, that one Brindley, whose posterity long enjoyed it, went into Germany, and there acted the part of a *fool*, and by that

* Gen. Biog. Dict.

means obtained this excellent machine, which has been so serviceable, and brought so much money into this country.

In reference to eminent men (in addition to those already noticed in the preceding pages) born in this county, we notice the following:—

Elias Ashmole, was of humble birth, and, like Dr. Johnson, received his education at the Grammar School of Lichfield, where he was born on the 23d of May, 1617. He afterwards rendered himself conspicuous, both in a civil and military capacity, and in the world of Letters. Mr. Pitt enters into an interesting and lengthened biographical account of him; our limits will only admit of the following compressed account, as given by Mr. Stephen Jones:—"Elias Ashmole, or Asmole, was a celebrated English Philosopher and Antiquary, and founder of the Ashmolean Museum, at Oxford. Besides filling several offices, civil and military, Mr. Ashmole was a diligent and curious collector of manuscripts. In 1650, he published a Treatise, written by Mr. Arthur Dee, on the Philosopher's Stone; together with another Tract, on the same subject, by an unknown author. About the same time he was busied in preparing for the press a complete collection of the works of such English Chemists as had, till then, remained in manuscript. This undertaking cost him great labour and expense; and at length the work appeared towards the close of the year, 1652.—The title of this work was '*Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum, &c. &c.*' He then applied himself to the study of antiquity and records. In 1658, he began to collect materials for his '*History of the Order of the Garter*,' which he lived to finish, and did no less honour to the Order than to himself. In September following he made a journey to Oxford, where he set about a full and particular description of the coins given to the Public Library by Archbishop Laud. Upon the Restoration of King Charles II., Mr. Ashmole was introduced to his Majesty, who received him very graciously, and, on the 18th June, 1660, bestowed on him the place of Windsor Herald; a few days after, he appointed him to give a description of his medals, which accordingly were delivered into his possession, and King Henry the Eighth's closet was assigned for his use. On the 8th of May, 1672, he presented his '*Institution, Laws, and Ceremonies of the Most Noble Order of the Garter*,' to the King, who received it very graciously, and as a mark of his approbation, granted him a privy seal for £400., out of the custom of paper. On the 26th of January, 1679, a fire broke out in the Middle Temple, in the next chamber to Mr. Ashmole's, by which he lost a noble library, with a collection of 9000 coins, ancient and modern, and a vast repository of seals, charters, and other antiquities and curiosities; but his manuscripts, and his most valuable gold medals were, luckily, at his house at South Lambeth. In 1683, the University of Oxford, having finished a magnificent Repository, near the Theatre, Mr. Ashmole sent thither his curious collection of rarities; and this benefaction was considerably augmented by the addition of his manuscripts and library at his death, which happened at South Lambeth, May 18, 1692. He was interred at the church of Great Lambeth, in Surrey, on the 26th of May, 1692."

Ashmole, speaking of the robes worn by ladies at the Festivals of the Order, says:—"There

seems to be some intimation of wearing a Garter also on the left arm, as is to be observed from the Countess of Tankerville's monument, in St. Katherine's Church, near the Tower :—"To which may be added," says Anstis, "the lady of Sir Robert de Harcourt, who is represented on her monument (in the fifteenth century) with the Garter and the Motto, '*Hony soit quy mal y pense*,' just above the elbow of the left arm." *

Dr. Samuel Johnson.—In our account of Lichfield, only a few lines were devoted to that great and talented man: indeed, after so much has been written, and so ably, on the subject, little remains of a novel character, beyond the Life and Anecdotes given of him by Sir John Hawkins, and his friends, Mrs. Thrale, and James Boswell. We shall not attempt even to abridge their statement, but merely insert the heads of his literary career and extraordinary labours, as compressed and described by Mr. Jones.

"Dr. Samuel Johnson, was born at Lichfield, in 1709, where his father was a respectable bookseller. He was entered of Pembroke College, Oxford, October 31, 1728, but left the University without taking any degree. In March, 1737, he came to London, where he appears to have met with disappointments which disgusted him with the town; for, in August, we find him desirous of returning again into his native country, to take upon himself the office of Master of a Charity School, in Shropshire, then vacant, the salary of which was £60. a-year. But the Statute of the School requiring the person who should be elected to be Master of Arts, this attempt seems to have been frustrated. In 1740, he began to write the '*Debates in the Senate of Lilliput*,' printed in the *Gentleman's Magazine*; and after producing some poems, translations, and biographical works, which met with a good reception, particularly '*London*,' the '*Vanity of Human Wishes*,' and '*The Life of Savage*,' he brought forth '*Irene*,' a tragedy, in 1749. This not meeting with the success he expected, he set about his '*Dictionary*.' The execution of this plan cost him the labour of many years, but he was amply repaid by the fame he acquired. During the recesses of this stupendous labour, he published his '*Rambler*.' The reputation of these works gained him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in the University of Dublin, which was soon after followed by the same degree from Oxford. To this succeeded his '*Idlers*.' His next publication was '*Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia*,' a beautiful little novel, in the Eastern style, abounding with the most useful and moral maxims, suited to the several conditions of life. Of his political works, which followed at distant intervals, the public are more divided about the merits; it is, however, but fair to presume, that they were his candid opinions upon the subjects, and, as such, deserving of no censure from the judgment of impartiality. His last undertaking, '*The Lives of the British Poets*,' would alone have been sufficient to immortalize his name among his countrymen, as it by far exceeds anything executed upon a similar plan by foreigners; and though the critical remarks in a few instances incorporate a little too much with political opinions, their general excellence must always give them a deserved celebrity. It is said that he was executing a second part of '*The Prince of Abyss-*

* Nichols's Anecdotes, vol. 6, p. 327.

sinia,' and was in hopes to have finished it before his death, which event happened Dec. 13, 1784." The editor of the "*Biographia Dramatica*," after bestowing many just encomiums on the genius of Dr. J., says, "it would be the highest injustice, were I not to observe that nothing but that genius can possibly exceed the extent of his erudition; and it would be adding a greater injury to his still more valuable qualities, were we to stop here; since, together with the ablest head, he seems possessed of the very best heart at present existing. Every line, every sentiment, that issues from his pen, tends to the great centre of all his views, the promotion of virtue, religion, and humanity; nor are his actions less pointed towards the same great end. Benevolence, charity, and piety, are the most striking features of his character; and while his writings point out to us what a good man ought to be, his own conduct sets us an example of what he is." A statue to Dr. Johnson's memory has been erected in St. Paul's cathedral. In an East India newspaper, we met with the following picture of this celebrated character:

"Herculean strength, and a stentorian voice,
Of wit a fund, of words a countless choice;
In learning rather various than profound,
In truth intrepid, in religion sound;
A trembling frame, and a distorted sight,
But firm in judgment and in genius bright:
In controversy rarely known to spare,
But humble as the publican in prayer;
To more than merited his kindness, kind,
And, tho' in manners harsh, of friendly mind;
Deep-tinged with melancholy's blackest shade,
And, tho' prepared to die, of death afraid——
Such Johnson was,—of him with justice vain,
When will this nation see his like again?"

Elijah Fenton.—In the account of the Village of Shelton, (the birth-place of Fenton,) will be found a biographical sketch of that amiable poet, with an allusion to some of his productions; and, as his biographer remarks:—After the masterly critique of Dr. Samuel Johnson, that greatest of critics and biographers, it would be ridiculous to enter into an analysis of Fenton's original poems. "To examine his performances one by one would be tedious."—His translation of Homer into blank verse, will find few readers while another can be had in rhyme. The piece addressed to Lambarde, is no disagreeable specimen of epistolary poetry, and his ode to Lord Gower was pronounced by Pope the next ode in the English language to Dryden's "*Cecilia*." Fenton may be justly styled an excellent versifier, and a good poet.

Isaac Hawkins Browne,—A writer of considerable talent in the early part of the 18th century, was born at Burton-upon-Trent, January 21, 1706. His father, the Rev. Wm. Browne, was minister of that parish; and from his possessing a small inheritance, which

was increased by his union with Anne, daughter and heiress of Isaac Hawkins, Esq. the son; as Mr. Pitt truly remarks, was from his earliest infancy blest with all the aid which opulence could give to facilitate his studies. His productions would have been much more noticed and admired, but from the circumstances of many of them being written in Latin.

In 1724, he was selected as a scholar upon a Foundation established by George I. at the Universities,—“for the Study of Foreign Languages and History, to qualify the Students for employments at Court, and on Foreign Embassies.”

During the period of his residence at Lincoln's Inn, he amused himself in writing several poetical pieces.

On the 10th of Feb. 1734, he married Jane, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Trimnell, Arch-deacon of Leicester. This marriage took place when he was in the 29th year of his age, and was productive of great domestic felicity.

He was twice elected a representative in Parliament for Wenlock.

His greatest literary production was entitled “*De Animi Immortalitate*,” which was published in 1754; subsequent to which several translations in poetry, and in blank verse, have been published. He died after a lingering illness at his house in Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, on the 14th Feb. 1760, in the 55th year of his age.

Bishop Hurd.—Dr. Richard Hurd, Bishop of Worcester, was born in this county, at Congreve, in the parish of Penkridge, on the 13th January, 1719-20, and received the rudiments of his education at Breewood (already noticed,) under the Rev. Wm. Budworth, head-master of the Grammar-school at that place. After completing his education at Emanuel college, Cambridge, he wrote his “*Dialogues on Chivalry and Romance*,” “*Sermons preached at Lincoln's-inn Chapel*,” and “*The Life of Bishop Warburton*.” Dr. Hurd, who had been tutor to the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, was highly esteemed by George III., who, on the death of Archbishop Cornwallis, offered him the Primacy, but he requested permission of the King to decline it. He died June 6th, 1808, in the 89th year of his age.

A complete edition of Bishop Hurd's Works, in 8 volumes 8vo, was published in 1811, as were also editions of Addison and his friend Warburton, all prepared for the press by the Bishop.*

Charles Cotton.—Who lived in the reigns of Charles and James II, was born at Berresford in this county, on the 28th April, 1630, and was educated at the University of Cambridge. This eccentric genius was famous for burlesque poetry. He also translated Corneille's tragedy of “*Horace*,” in 1671, and published poems on several occasions:—“*The wonders of the Peak in Derbyshire*,” “*Scaronides, or Virgil Travestie*,” and “*Lucian Burlesqued, or the Scoffer scoffed*.”—S. Jones remarks, that an edition of the three-last mentioned was printed in 1715, and has frequently been re-printed, but the chief of all his productions, and for which perhaps he deserves the best praise of his countrymen, is his translation of “*Montaigne's Essays*.”

Cotton wrote at a period of levity and dissipation, and appears to have experienced many

* Nichols's Literary Anecdotes, vol. 6, p. 468.

adversities with his associate Wits of the day, and which the following extract from one of his poetical epistles to a friend will testify :

“He always wants money, which makes him want ease,

He’s always besieged, though himself of the peace,

By an army of duns, who batter with sandals,

And are foemen more fierce than the Goths and the Vandals.”

Thomas Astle.—Was born at Yoxall, in this county, on the 22d Dec. 1735. This eminent English antiquary, originally bred to the Law, excelled all who had gone before him, as well as his contemporaries, in deciphering ancient records.

In 1763, he obtained the patronage of Mr. Grenville, who, as First Lord of the Treasury, caused him to be employed as an assistant to Sir Jos. Ayloff, and Dr. Ducarel, in the regulation of the public records of Westminster. He was afterwards engaged as a literary assistant at the British Museum. He was patronised by Lord John Townshend, and became acquainted with Mr. Morant (author of the “*History of Essex*,”) and whose daughter he married with an ample fortune after her father’s demise.

In 1765-1766, he was appointed Receiver-General of 6d. in the pound, on the Civil List, and was employed in preparing the Harleian Catalogues of MSS. in the British Museum.

In 1775, he published the will of King Henry VII. in 4to, also a catalogue of the MSS. and Charters in the Cotton Library.

In 1784, he published his great treatise on “*The Origin and Progress of Writing, as well Hieroglyphical as Elementary*,” &c. In 1788, his copy of the Will of King Alfred, was printed at Oxford.

A short time previous to this, he was appointed Keeper of the Rolls and Records in the Tower of London; and in 1787 elected a Trustee of the British Museum.

A new edition of his treatise on Writing was published just before his death, which occurred Dec. 1, 1803, at Battersea in Surrey.

Dr. John Lightfoot.—A learned and eminent divine, was born in this county, at Stoke-upon-Trent, on the 29th of March, 1602. Mr. Pitt, who gives a fuller biographical account of him than our limits will admit, states, that he was in holy orders fifty-six years, thirty-six of which he was vicar of Uttoxeter. He appears to have been universally admired as a man of great piety and learning. Mr. Pitt, in concluding his account of him, says, “In rabbinical learning, Dr. Lightfoot was equalled by few of his contemporaries, and excelled by none; and foreigners who came to England to prosecute those studies, visited him for the purpose of instruction.”

Thomas Blake.—Of whom Mr. Pitt gives a short biographical memoir, was, as he states “born in Staffordshire, in the year 1597, and in the 19th year of his age he was entered of Christ Church, Oxford, where he passed through different gradations of academic distinction and afterwards went into the Church. In 1648, he promoted the cause of the republicans and became an eminent puritanical divine. After he subscribed to the Covenant, he was

appointed pastor of St. Alemonds, in Shrewsbury, and was afterwards minister of Tamworth, (in his native county,) where he died, and was buried, in June, 1657, in the 60th year of his age, and was buried in the church of that town. Mr. Anthony Birch, an eloquent preacher, of Sutton-Coldfield, preached his funeral Sermon."

Richard Meadowcourt,—Who was born in this county, in 1697, was an English critic of considerable celebrity. He was educated at Merton College, Oxford, and is described by Chalmers, and others, as a great critic and his critical remarks on the English poets did not escape the notice and praise of the late Bishop Newton, in publishing his edition of Milton. In addition to a number of sermons and tracts, he wrote a critical dissertation, with notes, upon "*Milton's Paradise Regained*."

The *Rev. Stebbing Shaw*.—This gentleman is particularly deserving of notice in this place, as the author of "*The History and Antiquities of Staffordshire*, compiled from the manuscripts of Huntbach, Loxdale, Bishop Lyttleton, and other collections of Dr. Wilkes, the Rev. T. Fielde, &c. &c., including '*Erdswicke's Survey of the County*,' and the approved parts of '*Dr. Plot's Natural History*.' The whole brought down to the present time, interspersed with pedigrees and anecdotes of families; observations on agriculture, commerce, mines, and manufactories; and illustrated with a very full and correct new map of the county, *Agri Staffordiensis Icon*, and numerous other plates, by the Rev. Stebbing Shaw, B.D. F.R.S., and Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge."

According to the account of his biographer, he was born at Stone, in this county, in the year 1762. He was the son of the Rev. Stebbing Shaw, rector of Hartshorn, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, where his mother inherited a small estate, which descended to him. He was educated by that ingenious poet and scholar, the Rev. William Bagshaw Stephens, at the Grammar School, at Repton, near Hartshorn. At an early period he evinced a love of literature. To give a full biographical memoir of him would exceed the limits of this work. We shall confine ourselves to the brief outline given of him in "*The Literary Anecdotes of the 18th Century*."

"The Rev. Stebbing Shaw, of Queen's College, Cambridge, B.A. 1784, M.A. 1787, B.D. 1796, F.S.A. 17—; Rector of Hartshorn, county of Derby, in which he succeeded his father. He was author of '*A Tour to the West of England*, 1788, 8vo.;' and joint editor, with Sir Egerton Brydges, of '*The Topographer*,' 4 vols. 8vo. 1789—1791; but better known by his last valuable publication, '*The History of the County of Stafford*.' He unfortunately left this work incomplete, but Mr. Shaw's MSS. having been purchased by a gentleman of ample talents and strong inclination to complete them, the work will always be considered a valuable one.

"Together with the great skill in topography, Mr. Shaw possessed the advantage of a ready and accurate pencil. To those accomplishments he added a very great proficiency in music;

and they were heightened by the perfect goodness of his heart, which render his loss a severe affliction to all who had the happiness of his acquaintance. His warmth of friendship was, indeed, demonstrable in whatever he wrote; of which the preface to his Staffordshire, and many of his letters to Mr. Urban, reporting progress in that laborious undertaking, are striking examples. He had a very ready pencil, and his views are in general accurate; his bodily frame was delicate, and overcome by the toils of a studious life, he fell into a mental imbecility, from which he was released by death at an early age, October 28, 1802.

Archbishop Sheldon.—Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury, was born at Stanton, in this county, on the 19th July, 1598. His biographer says, that at the time of his birth, his father was a menial servant to the Earl of Shrewsbury, who stood sponsor for him at his baptism, and gave him the name of Gilbert. Under the patronage of this nobleman, young Sheldon received a classical education, and took the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in Trinity College, Oxford, November 27, 1617, in the twentieth year of his age, and that of Master of Arts, May 20, 1620. He was elected Fellow of All-Soul's College, Oxford, in the year 1622, entered into holy orders, and having attracted the notice of Lord Keeper Coventry, he was appointed domestic Chaplain by that Statesman, and, in consequence of his abilities, employed in various affairs, relating both to church and state. Lord Clarendon observes, that Sheldon soon became distinguished for his uncommon abilities and attainments, and was considered by competent judges to be fully qualified to shine in any ecclesiastical preferment. To follow Archbishop Sheldon through his highly-gifted and talented career up to the summit of his dignity would fill a volume. He lived to the advanced age of eighty, and after so lengthened and active, and well spent a life, this great and venerable prelate died at Lambeth, Nov. 9, 1677. He was interred in the church, at Croydon, in Surrey, where an uncommonly fine monument was erected to his memory, by his nephew and heir, Sir Joseph Sheldon, the son of his eldest brother, Ralph Sheldon, of Stanton, in Staffordshire. This monument is not, perhaps, exceeded in the beauty of design, or in execution, by any in the kingdom. It is wholly composed of the finest and purest specimen that we have seen of white polished marble—the fine features, figure, drapery, the crozier, mitre—and even the pillow upon which the head and arm recline—are of the most elaborate workmanship.

Dr. James.—This celebrated character was born at Kinverston, in this county, at the commencement of the eighteenth century. He was a very copious medical writer, and his great work, his "*Medical Dictionary*," has always been highly estimated, and new editions have continued to be published, with all the modern improvements in the science of medicine, by the most able hands. He also wrote a number of detached medical works, but the most popular was a dissertation upon fevers, being a vindication of his "*Fever Powders*," which have maintained their celebrity for upwards of a century. It has proved a noble

fortune to Dr. James's family. Dr. James was the son of a major in the army; his mother was a sister of Sir Robert Clarke.—He received his education at Oxford, at which place he took up his degree of A. B., and commenced author about 1743, and died in the year 1776.

Isaac Walton.—This talented and interesting writer was born in the town of Stafford in this County, on the 9th day of August, 1593, and his life may be said to be as amiable and entertaining as those of whom he wrote, viz. Wotton, Donne, Hooker, and Herbert. A new and improved edition of these latter has been published by Mr. Zouch. Isaac Walton was also author of that celebrated work, "*The Complete Angler, or Contemplative Man's Recreation*," and of "*Lives of several Eminent Englishmen*," both works of superlative merit. He was born in 1593, and died in 1685.

Edmund Dudley.—This celebrated, but unfortunate and unprincipled lawyer and statesman was born in Staffordshire, in 1442, and as the historical documents and evidence against him are on record, and exceed our limits, we shall merely refer to them, as well as to those of his son, John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, who was also born in this county, near Okeover, in 1502.

Of the Peerage of Staffordshire, references have already been made to some of the principal personages, in describing their mansions.

UTTOXETER.—Near this town is BEAMHURST, the seat of *Henry Mountford, Esq.* Great historical interest attaches to this ancient and noble family. Henry Mountford, Esq. is heir-at-law of the late Simon Mountford, Earl of Leicester, and has in his possession the arms of that family, as well as those of another branch of it equally ancient; both titles were forfeited at the same period. Beamhurst Hall is pleasantly situate in a delightful part of this County.

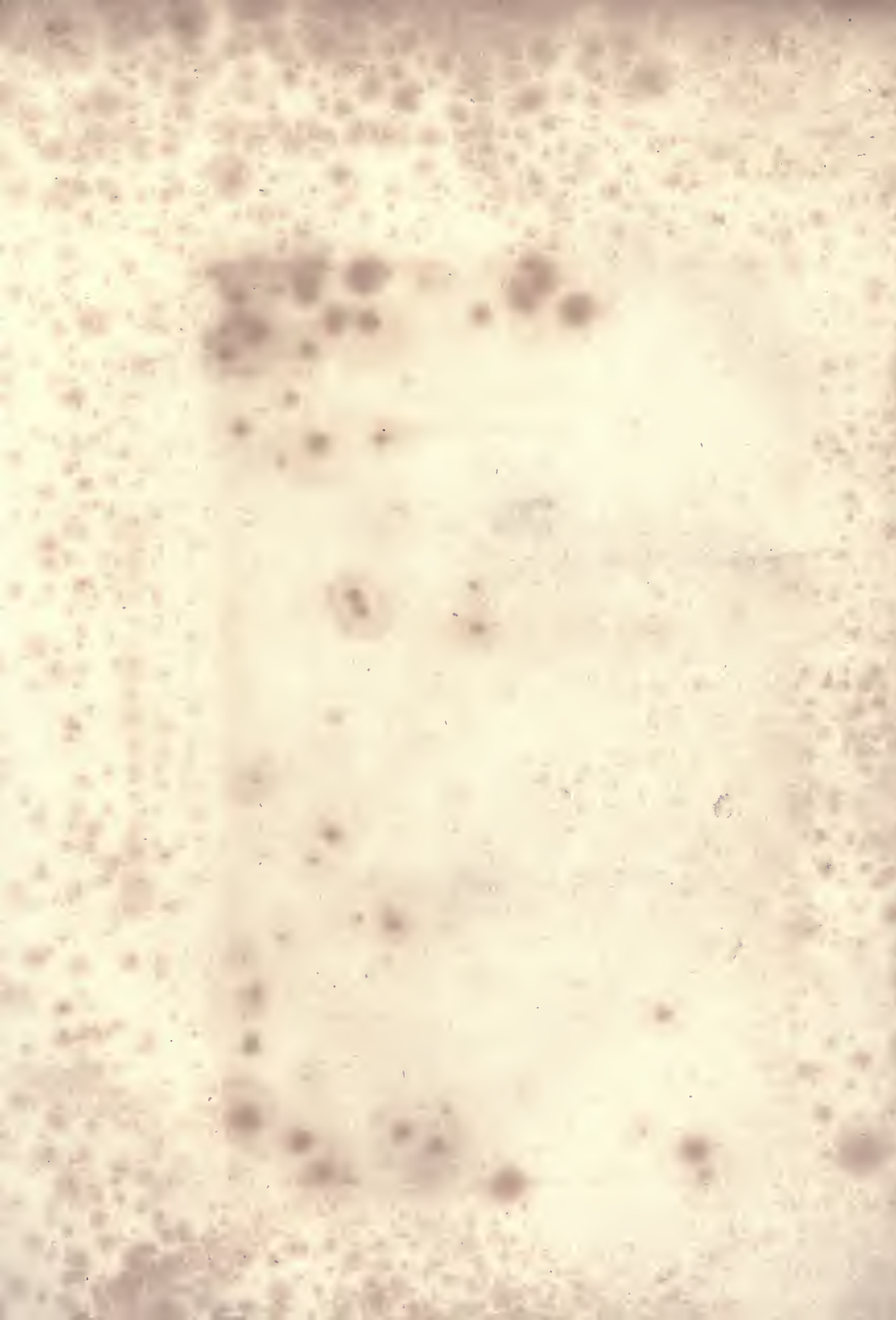
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